THE INDEPENDENT

Urban smog kills 24,000 **Britons** every year

Pollution caused mainly by traffic fumes kills up to 24,000 people prematurelyeach year. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, examines the findings of an official report which will increase the pressure on the Government to cut car use.

When the smog hangs heavy in the city it is poisoning the population that breathes it. The first report to measure the effects of air pollution in Britain concludes that its immediate effect is to hasten the deaths of between 12,000 and 24,000 vulnerable people and to trigger up to 24,000 hospital admissions each year.

This is certain to be an underestimate, of the long-term effects of living in polluted cities. That is to be the subject of a further study.

The findings, by the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants, a government advisory body, indicate a more serious problem than expected. Launching the document yesterday, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, flanked by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, and Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, said: "This report clearly confirms that air pollution damages

The findings triggered immediate demands for a cut in road traffic. The British Medical Association warned: "The grim reaper comes early on days of heavy air pollution." Friends of the Earth said the deaths figure was "extremely alarming" and the British Lung Foundation described it as "very serious."

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Professor Stephen Holgate, chairman of the committee, said he had been surprised by the size of the effect. Speaking after the launch, he said that although the worst effects of pollution were on those who were frail, elderly or sick, there was growing evidence that healthy individuals

"Respiratory infections are getting worse. Air pollution reduces the capacity of the lung to combat viruses and possibly bacteria. Whether this is because of air pollution outside or inside the home needs to be sorted out," he said.

Sir Kenneth Calman sought to reduce alarm by emphasising that it was people who were already seriously ill with chronic respiratory disease who were most at risk. "They are not dying because of air pollution, they are dying because the contribution of air pollution to their ill health tips the balance.

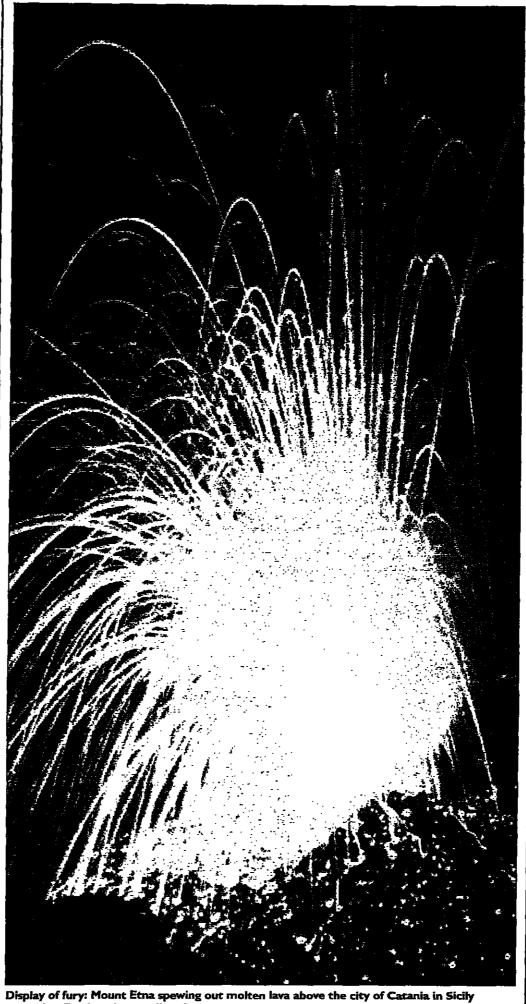
He said they were not necessarily extra deaths or hospital admissions but ones that had been "brought forward", in some cases by a few days, but in other cases by a "somewhat longer period." He compared the effect with that of the cold in winter, which is linked with 30,000 extra deaths between October and March.

Mr Meacher said the findings contained because the report does not take account a "major lesson" for transport. A white paper will set out proposals to reduce car use and technical measures to cut pollution. The AA, the motoring organisation, said drivers should not be made scapegoats for poor air quality and claimed that toxic exhaust gases were down 22 per cent compared with 1992.

The report, Quantification of the Effects of Air Pollution on Health in the UK, says pollution has three effects: many chemicals, such as sulphur dioxide and ozone, act as irritants to the bronchial tubes of the lung. Some, such as nitrogen dioxide and ozone, release substances that damage the lung lining. Together these cause inflammation, irritation and make the lung less efficient at fighting infection.

Particulates, the tiny particles produced mainly by the burning of diesel fuel, are the most dangerous. The smallest, known as PM10s, are drawn deep into the lungs where they are absorbed, causing damage to tissue as they are processed. They can trigger blood clots.

Professor Jon Ayres, a member of the committee, said it was likely that pollution had long-term effects on health but these remained to be proved. "What we would like to know is if you live in a town like London all your life, is it significantly shortened compared with living in a rural area. That is the big question."



yesterday. Earthquakes rattling the volcano have raised fears that a true eruption is imminent - the last major one was six years ago Photograph: Fabrizio Villa/AP

Keep collecting! 50,000 flights to Europe from return inc. airport taxes TOKEN 5, THE EYE, PAGE 4 INDEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY TOKEN COLLECT

TODAY'S NEWS

Ulster talks backed

The Northern Ireland political talks surmounted another significant hurdle when all parties agreed to use Monday's London-Dublin document as a basis for negotiation. But Sinn Fein made it clear that this did not imply approval of its contents. Page 4

More time for three Rs

The Government pressed ahead with its campaign to boost the basics in education by making more room in the primary school day for the three Rs. Schools are to be permitted to spend less time on some compulsory subjects like history, geography and design and technology. Page 5

Docklands bomb trial

It was "little short of a miracle" that an enormous lorry bomb claimed only two lives when it exploded at Canary Wharf in London Docklands, an Old Bailey jury was told. Two men from Northern Ireland men deny conspiring to cause the explosion. Page 9

High cost of Tony's VIPs

Tony Blair's government makes more use of Heathrow Airport's VIP facilities than its Tory predecessor did, it emerged last night. The cost of suites mounted to £1.6m in the seven months from May. Page 6

If you sponsor Shomita,

President Blair trumps Brown on welfare

Ministers expressed astonishment yesterday at allegations that Gordon Brown wants to curb child benefit for the better-off - in defiance of a Labour manifesto pledge. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports that it will fuel No 10 suspicion about the Chancellor's ambitions, and analyses the edgy relationship between the **Downing Street** neighbours.

Tony Blair is expected by Cabinet colleagues to use his new Cabinet committee on welfare reform to assert his authority over the Chancellor of the Exchequer - who has told friends that he is "Prime Minister" to the Blair "presidency".

The real Prime Minister, who returned to Britain from Tokyo last night, is to open a national campaign for welfare reform in the West Midlands tomorrow night.

In a rare in-depth Cabinet discussion of a single issue before Christmas - a reaction to the shock Commons revolt over the cut in lone parents' benefits - it was decided that Mr Blair should chair a new



committee on welfare reform, to give coherence to a policy that was in danger of developing piecemeal.

Some Cabinet colleagues saw that as a direct slap-down for Mr Brown, who was the motive force behind the curbs on lone parent benefit, introduced by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security.

But there was dismay yesterday that, for the second time in a month, well-informed

"Treasury sources" had floated suggestions that Mr Brown was planning to tax child benefit. along with a revival of controversial plans to remove the benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds in full-time schooling.

One report said the taxation of child benefit, "a move that could be announced as early as the March Budget", could mean better-off mothers losing

more than £1,000 a year. The manifesto says: "We

are committed to retain universal child benefit where it is universal today - from birth to age 16 - and to uprate it at least in line with prices." Taxation. even for the better-off, would be a clear breach of that pledge.

The Treasury-inspired reports, described by one minister as unhelpful mischiefmaking, come on top of last week's disclosures that Mr Brown believed Mr Blair had betrayed a personal pact to stand

Mr Blair told BBC television's Breakfast with Frost on Sunday that there was no secret pact, and sources close to the Prime Minister said it was nonsense to suggest that he could have beaten Mr Blair in the 1994 contest to succeed John Smith.

aside in any leadership contest.

A source close to the Chancellor yesterday protested that paranoia was so great over Mr Brawn's alleged campaign to increase his party power-base that complaints had been made about the number of meetings he was holding with MPs.

However, The Independent has been told that after one No 11 party for MPs, a dissident backbencher had thanked Mr Brown for a wonderful party, to which the Chancellor had replied: "The Labour Party? Yes, it was a wonderful party, wasn't it?"

Mr Blair said on Sunday that Mr Brown was one of his "closest, closest friends", and if people were hoping that the Tory history of prime ministers falling out with their chancelfors was going to be repeated, they were in for a disappoint-

The Eye, page 10

Web address: http://www.

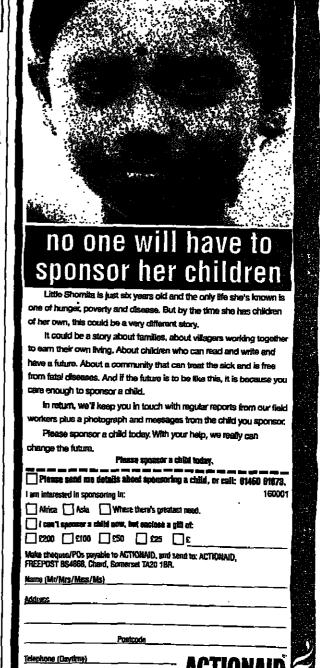
ment. Nevertheless, it is known that Mr Blair has on a number of occasions imposed his will upon the Chancellor.

He vetoed Mr Brown's preelection demand for a new higher top rate of income tax; he blocked a manifesto commitment to abolish child benefit for the over-16 school children and he insisted that Mr Brown should make a Commons statement ruling out membership of the European single currency before the next election.

One of the Cabinet-level complaints made about Mr Brown is that he runs economic policy far too close to his chest, There were real fears that he was exerting the same close control over welfare reform.

Now that Mr Blair has decided to put the issue on the cabinet table - open for genuine debate and discussion, with a public input from his round-Britain tour - Ministers will not hesitate to side with him against the Chancellor, who has few Cabinet friends and a number of powerful

The Eye, page 12



Italian Parma ham, the most expensive product to come from a pig, was at the centre of a High Court battle yesterday over the vexed question of whether the traditional antipasto may legitimately be sliced in Wiltshire.

The Parma Ham Consortium, which represents Italian producers, is seeking an injunction to prevent the Asda supermarket chain from selling its cut-price meat, on the grounds that is sliced and packaged in Chippenham rather than in its Italian area of origin.

According to Italian law, the ham must be fully prepared for sale in the Parma region, a narrow area of northern Italy between the Taro and Baganza rivers, under the supervision of the Parma Ham Consortium.

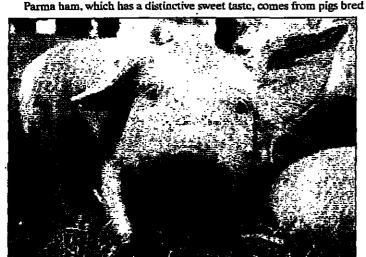
Lawyers for Asda, though, argued that since the law had not been incorporated into EU legislation, it was not enforceable in Britain. The retailer described the case as a "barmy High Court Parma drama".

Deputy Judge Lawrence Collins QC was told that the supermarket, which undercuts its nearest rival by 78p per gram, imports legs of ham which have been produced from Parma pigs according to the traditional method, by Fiorricci, one of the largest companies and a member of the

The only difference between Asda's product and that of other British retailers was that it was prepared for sale here after being imported from

Steven Cain, the company's marketing director, said: "To suggest that this ham is inferior because it is sliced and packed in the UK must be a joke. Whether we slice our ham in Parma, Preston, Peterborough or Perth

Mr Cain said the Consortium's argument amounted to saying that Scottish beef ceased to be Scottish if it was sliced in Southampton, or that the origin of Jersey potatoes altered if they were boiled in Blackpool.



On the hoof: But is Asda's ham the genuine article?

in the area where Parmesan cheese was originally produced. They are fed

The case, which continues today, is the latest in which legal action has been taken to protect the production methods or names of gastronomic

Last year, the Scotch Whisky Association sued a distillery on the Isle of Man, claiming that the liquor it produced - called Manx Whisky - was not the genuine article because it was colourless, an effect achieved by distilling it after it had matured.

The Scotch whisky industry has also taken action against producers in Japan, Taiwan and France, anxious to protect a name that is worth £2.3bn

In Spain, a series of lawsuits has led to a strict definition of exactly who

can give the name sherry to their fortified wine. Producers in the Champagne region of France, meanwhile, have successfully prevented makers of sparkling wines from using the word cham-

pagne on their labels. It has launched more than 60 actions in England alone. Even a Surrey vineyard that made non-alcoholic elderflower "champagne", a traditional country drink, felt the wrath of the mighty French industry, which took the family firm all the way to the Court of Appeal before securing victory.

A couple of years ago. Coca-Cola forced Sainsbury's to change the labelling on its own-brand cola, on the grounds that it was too similar to the original. Sainsbury's also bowed to pressure to change the appearance of its own-brand Full Roast coffee jars after complaints from Nestlé about their similarity to Nescafé.

Tesco, too, has been the subject of complaints, from Kellogg's about the supermarket's similarly-packaged own-label cornflakes and about a low-fat spread called Unbelievable, which it brought out after Unilever launched a new spread called I Can't Believe It's Not Butter.

There was heated discussion in 1991 about whether the Jaffa Cake should more properly be classified as a biscuit. Customs and Excise officers took the manufacturers. United Biscuits, to court, arguing that, as a biscuit, the Jaffa Cake should attract VAT. But the judge said he was not convinced that it was not a cake, so it continues to be zero-rated. - Kathy Marks





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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

PEOPLE



Shirley Bassey: Admitted pushing her long-serving aide in South African hotel room

Shirley Bassey accused of anti-Semitic remark

Singer Shirley Bassey slapped and insulted her personal assistant during a row in a hotel room. a court heard yesterday. Hilary Levy, 44, who had worked for the singer for 15 years, claimed she was sacked by Miss Bassey after a dispute over working hours.

Miss Levy told Brentford County Court, west London, that an angry Miss Bassey hit her on the back and called her a "Jewish bitch" after consuming "a fair amount of champagne". Miss Levy, of Mill Hill. north London, said had been asking for a few hours off the next day, following a late-night dinner, when the argument broke out at a hotel in Cape Town. South Africa, on 10 December, 1993.

Dressed in chocolate-coloured fur hat and matching coat, Miss Bassey, represented by Mr Philip Kolvin, sat in court listening to the evidence.

Miss Levy is suing Miss Bassey for breach of contract and claiming a balance of £7,650 for earnings she lost during a tour of the Far East.

Miss Bassey denied hitting Miss Levy - although she admitted pushing her during the argument. The star, who lives in Monte Carlo, also denied sacking Miss Levy and calling her a "bitch".

She told the court she was angry after Miss Levy slammed her bedroom door in the hotel. "I went after her into her bedroom. I was point-

ing my finger at her, saying 'Don't you dare slam the door in my face again," Miss Bassey told the court. Asked whether she hit Miss Levy, she said: "No, I was waving my finger at her and was amazed when she said 'Do not hit me'. She was hysterical, she was

I wanted to know why she was so angry." Miss Bassey then admitted she had pushed Miss Levy. She said: "I pushed her here [pointing to her left shoulder]. I did not slap her ... I pushed her."

screaming ... she had been acting strange all evening.

The singer claimed she had smiled as she left the room, and said: "As I walked out I said 'You are a spoilt Jewish princess'. I certainly did not call her a bitch, I do not use words like that."

Miss Bassey added that the word "princess" was a showbusiness term for someone acting as a prima donna, and said she had been called that herself.

She strongly denied it was an anti-Semitic comment and said she had lots of Jewish friends and as-

Graca Machel says she won't marry Mandela

In a rare interview Graca Machel, President Nelson Mandela's "girlfriend", yesterday dashed the hopes of romantics all over the world. Despite persistent rumours. she would not, she said, be marrying President Mandela, even though people - including Archbishop Desmond Tutu - claimed they were setting a bad example.

But the disappointment for those who like a happy ending was tempered by Mrs Machel's public declaration of love. It was in marked contrast to her initial coycame public just over a year ago. many people are concerned that after the president divorced his second wife, Winnie. "I think we are okay like this,"

she said, blushing, in an interview other."



ness when their relationship be- in the Johannesburg Star. "I know we are sending the wrong message to young people. But we are two grown-up people who love each

Mrs Machel, 52, touchingly describes the gulf between the myth and reality of Mandela. The man with the tough public face she said had been her hero. But she fell in love with a man who was real-*simple. humble and soft."

During separations the couple phone each other every day. Mrs Machel is looking forward to Mandela's retirement as president in 1999. "He never had a normal family life," she says. "I want to help him do all the things he loves as a human being and not what he is expected to do."

"You see, we don't have so much time ahead of us so we try to spend as much as we can to-

– Mary Braid, Johannesburg

Branagh goes sci-fi with Dean gives feuding 'Trainspotting' team Lincoln a fresh start

Kenneth Branagh is on the point of signing up to star A new Dean of Lincoln was appointed yesterday with in the latest film by the Trainspotting trio of director Danny Boyle, producer Andrew Macdonald and writer

Branagh is set to star in Alien Love Triangle, a scifi comedy filmed in three parts that starts shooting at Elstree Studios in February. The segment filmed by Boyle and friends will tell the tale of a man who discovers that his wife is in fact a male from another planet.

The film is being produced by Miramax, the arthouse subsidiary of Disney, which set up its own UK studio last year under the former head of Channel 4 films, David Aukin.

Alien Love Triangle will be shot in three separate pieces by different directing and writing teams in a similar way to the Eighties film New York Stories which was made in different parts by directors including Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese. The other two directing and writing teams are yet to be confirmed.

Branagh will also star in the new Robert Altman film. The Gingerbread Man, which has been written by John Grisham and will be released in the UK in - Paul McCann, Media Correspondent nation.

the brief of "drawing a line" under a decade of controversy at the city's cathedral.

The Venerable Alexander Knight, currently Archdeacon of Basingstoke and Canon Residentiary of Winchester Cathedral, said he was "aware of the past" but was going to "look to the future".

The cathedral's recent history did not deter him. "I am a team player and I hope to use my experience to establish good relations between the cathedral and the diocese. That is what we must work at."

Last October the Very Rev Brandon Jackson resigned following a bitter feud with the cathedral's Sub-Dean, Canon Rex Davis. Canon Davis is still in post, but was in Australia for a family funeral yesterday when the announcement was made. Trouble between the two men began in the late 1980s. Dr Jackson was later accused of sexual harassment by a female verger, but acquitted by a church court.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, intervened last year, urging both Dr Jackson and Canon Davis to resign. The deadlock was broken in July when Dr Jackson announced his resig-

UPDATE

PROPERTY

House prices continue recovery

House prices are almost back to the peak of the spring and early summer of 1989, the Halifax reported yesterday.

In its official 1997 fourth-quarter house bulletin, the Halifax said prices rose by 1.1 per cent during the last three months of 1997, similar to the rise in the previous quarter. Earlier this month, the banking group revealed that prices fell in December for the first time since last January, although it believed they would continue to rise for the rest of the year. In its month ly index, Halifax found the average price of a house dropped by 0.2 per cent - marking a slowdown of annual house price inflation to the lowest rate since June 1996. Inflation dropped from 6.1 per cent to 4.3 per cent

Halifax said the figures did not mark an end to the recovery in house. prices because the slight drop followed a sharp rise in November, when prices shot up 0.9 per cent. "We continue to believe that the modest recovery started in 1997 will continue into 1998 and that house prices will end the year around 5 per cent higher than their present level."

During 1997, prices rose by 6.3 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent in 1996 In the last quarter of the year, the average price was £69,220, up from £65,674 in the final three months of 1996. But the Halifax said the UK picture continued to hide regional variations, with prices rising fastest in the single

ENVIRONMENT

Surfers given pledge on sewage

The Government today pledged to investigate surfers' fears over sever germs in seawater, after MPs warned that the growing popularity of

sport could pose health risks. Michael Meacher, the environment minister, said that before the peak holiday season he would "review" the level of waste treatment that companies use. His promise came as it emerged that some use the mostintensive and expensive treatment for only part of the year - although offers might be prepared to keep it in use in all 12 months.

Campaigners claim swallowing seawater leads to stomach upsets and sore throats and that viruses are not killed by routine treatment.

Mr Meacher told a Commons environment sub committee: "Secondary. treatment does provide a higher level of protection all year round __ but we are talking about tertiary treatment and whether that should be turned off for part of the year ... We have to achieve a balance between cost and public health and I agree that public health must be dominant."



Students to get drinking lesson

The drinks industry watchdog is planning to target students in a new campaign to encourage "sensible drinking".

The Portman Group is teaming up with the National Union of Students to reinforce messages about safe drinking levels. The campaign, to be launched next month, will focus on raising awareness of how many units of alcohol different drinks contain and on government guidelines for sticking to 21 units a week for women and 28 for men.

The new initiative comes as three more drinks companies join the group, which is funded by the industry to promote sensible drinking.

Bacardi-Martini, HP Bulmer and Campbell Distillers and Pernod Ricard join the industry's largest companies Allied Domecq, Bass, Diageo, Scottish & Newcastle, Seagram and Whitbread. It means the group now represents 95 per cent of the industry.

Group director Jean Coussins said the increased membership was a vote of confidence in its policies and would add weight to new initiatives.

HEALTH

Doctors see little future for NHS

More than three-quarters of doctors are pessimistic about the future of the NHS, according to a survey. As the NHS enters its 50th anniversary year, almost 90 per cent of GPs and 74 per cent of hospital doctors think that a true National Health Service will not exist in 50 years' time.

The survey of more than 150 hospital doctors and 100 GPs by the British Medical Association News Review also found that the majority of doctors thought that the founding principles of the NHS - a comprehensive service, free at point of delivery and paid for by taxation - had been eroded during the past 50 years.

TOURIST RATES			·.
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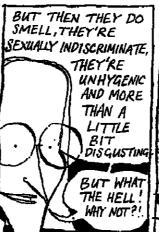
by Chris Priestley

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



THEY STOP YOU FROM FEELING LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN WHEN YOU GO FOR A WALKAND THEY DO GIVE THE ILLUSION OF SECURITY IN THE HOME ..











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Sex and shopping: Why women still get a raw deal when it comes to paying

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Women can no longer be charged more than men in New York for items such as haircuts and dry cleaning, after the city authority outlawed 'gender pricing'. But here in Britain, women still pay more than men for many

everyday services. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent and Rosa Prince investigate why there's no such thing as a cheap woman.

Sex and shopping have long been linked in most women's minds, but never quite so literally. New York City has followed California in outlawing gender discrimination

Put simply this means hairdressing salons will be unable to have prices which distinguish between men and women or face a \$500 (£300) fine. The same goes for dry cleaners who can no longer charge more for a blouse than a shirt.

However, here in Britain, it's still hard to be a woman. Technically section 29 of the Sex Discrimination Act outlaws gender discrimination on goods and services. In practice, a spokeswoman explains it can be difficult to prove. "Many shops charge women higher prices because they say it costs more in labour and overheads. It's



Cut price: The National Hairdressers' Federation says that women's hair needs more styling than men's

Photograph: David Rose

very difficult to prove. Manufacturers lon were justified. "The basic situation is and retailers say different prices for men and women are due to different costs in manufacturing or provision of services and so the Sex Discrimination Act is unlikely to apply."

A spokeswoman from the Consumers' Association said that they had done no research into the area of gender pricing but added that she felt "it should be part of our agenda".

Ray Seymour, general secretary of the National Hairdressers' Federation, countered yesterday that higher prices in the sa-

that it does cost more to cut ladies' hair than men's." he said.

"Most ladies' hair is below the ears, is longer than men's and needs more styling. In the same way, the cost of cutting a bald man's hair is the same as anyone else even though he has less hair."

Introducing similar measures in Britain he feels would be disastrous: "You can get more men passing over a seat than women in an hour. So if you're only cutting women's hair you have less customers. It would hit the salons hard. They couldn't

afford to bring the prices down so they would charge men as much as women and end up penalising men. Why does everything have to be PC these days?"

Still there is evidence that in some areas that prices are evening out - for example in dry cleaning. Alan Maycock, of Jeeves of Belgravia, said yesterday: "Years ago there were circumstances when the cost of cleaning a lady's shirt was greater than a man's. But the ladies complained and most dry cleaners now charge the same."

Where women tend to get their own back is car insurance, with young women sometimes getting quotes which are £100 less than young men. The reasons women are considered a safer bet is because men under 40 are twice as likely as women to drive without due or reasonable care and attention and twice as likely to break the speed limit."

Young women behave rather differently than young men when they get behind a steering wheel," said David Steven of Admiral Insurance.

"Young men have much higher numbers of driving convictions and more claims per person. And when they do crash it tends to be much harder than when young women do, so the claim is more."

Miranda Seymour of Direct Line added: "The difference in the rate we charge for men and women is all based on experience. Our experience is that females in the younger age groups make less claims. By about the age of 40, the difference between the two has evened out."

There are some areas where women may still win out, like "ladies' nights" in pubs and clubs where women get subsidised drinks to attract their (civilising) custom. but even this is dying out. A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "That sort of thing has gone out like the old rules that a woman had to be seated or that they wouldn't serve a woman wearing trousers. Certainly Γ m not aware that it ever happens in pubs now."

IN THURSDAY'S INDEPENDENT

The diet you've been waiting for: eat sweets, lose weight

FEATURES



The Barry Manilow fan club-sad or what?

In heaven with Blake's Seven

Boys who DO succeed

Council plans to pay staff in shopping vouchers

A local authority is planning to pay its staff in supermarket vouchers to save money, it said yesterday. Oxfordshire County Council has put forward the scheme to help save it hundreds of thousands of pounds each year in National Insurance contribu-

It will work by offering employees the chance to be paid a percentage of their salary in vouchers for stores and supermarkets such as Sainsbury's, Safeway and Marks & Spencer, or in child-care vouch-

for Christmas bonuses, but this is believed ers.

to be the first time the idea would be used on such a large scale.

The council's chief executive, John Harwood, said: "This is a legitimate scheme whereby our employees are offered part of their remuneration in retail vouchers.

"The saving is potentially very significant. For example, if 25 per cent of the Council's 15,500 staff received 10 per cent of their pay in vouchers, the saving would be £500,000 in the coming financial year."

National Insurance contributions do not Many firms pay their staff in vouchers have to be paid on the value of the vouch- available until ! April 1999, when new

Mr Harwood added: "We are now canvassing the level of potential interest, but there is no question of any member of staff being forced into being paid this way.

"It will simply be offered as an option, which has the benefit of saving money and helping us protect services."

further savings would be made from the discount offered by retailers on the face value of the vouchers.

Ouestionnaires have been sent to staff The council would save money because to assess the level of interest before a decision is made. The scheme would only be legislation comes into force

Lottery rival offered Branson bribe to drop out of bidding, QC says

Richard Branson claims the head of a firm running the National Lottery tried to bribe him. He also says he was accused of lying and now he is suing for libel. But he in turn is being counter-sued. Andrew Buncombe was in court yesterday as the unusual

Richard Branson spends a lot of time with a broad grin on his face, but yesterday he was frowning. His reputation as a man of honesty and integrity, the court was told, had been questioned and he was there to

legal battle began.

put things straight. The events that led to the High Court began when Mr Branson was launching a bid to

run the National Lottery in 1993. He invited one of his rivals to lunch to ask him to provide technical services to help run the lottery as a non-profitmaking venture. That man, Guy Snowden, head of the USbased GTech, a firm making up what is now Camelot, was not interested in helping.

But George Carman QC, representing Mr Branson, said Mr Snowden was concerned about the entrepreneur's bid. At worst Mr Branson might win and at best his charitable intentions might persuade the Government to reduce the operator's profit. Mr Carman said that during the lunch at Mr Branson's London home Mr Snowden tried to bribe him to drop out. "It's as plain as a pikestaff that what Guy Snowden was about that day was floating a bribe in front of Richard Branson in order to get

Branson is suing Mr Snowden, GTech, and its spokesman, Robert Rendine, for saying he lied about the alleged bribe. Mr Snowden is suing Mr Branson for making the allegation.

The court was told that Mr Snowden said to Mr Branson: "I don't know how to phrase this, Richard. There's always a bottom line. I'll get to the point. In what way can we help you? I mean, what can I do for you personally?"

Mr Carman said: "Mr Branson said: 'What on earth do you mean?' and Mr Snowden said: 'Everybody needs something'." Mr Carman said Mr Branson replied: "Thank you very much. I'm quite successful. I only need one breakfast, one lunch. one dinner a day." Finding Mr Snowden's offer odious, Mr Branson had left the table and made a note of the conversation

him out of the bidding." Mr in the toilet, added the QC. The court heard details of the alleged bribe were not publicly revealed until 1995, when Mr Branson was approached by a producer from Panorama. He said allegations of bribery had been made against GTech

> in the US and the company had been investigated by the FBI. Mr Branson revealed the conversation from the lunch and agreed to appear on the programme.

Mr Justice Morland and the jury were played a recording of the programme.

Mr Carman said: "Nobody starts libel proceedings of this gravity with any great enthusiasm. But if you value your good name and you want to hold your head up high as an honest man, sometimes you bave no alternative."

The case, expected to last four weeks, continues.

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MPs lead call to strip **Dame Shirley of title**

Shirley Porter of her title.

Dame Shirley, the leader of Westminster City Council at the centre of the "homes-for-votes" scandal, was found guilty by the district auditor of "wilful misconduct" and "disgraceful and improper

gerrymandering" between 1987 and 1989. The High Court upheld the auditor's decision to impose a £27m surcharge on Dame Shirley and one of her former colleagues, former councillor David Weeks, while clearing three other councillors on 19 De-

cember last year. The 25 Labour MPs, who signed a Commons Early Day Motion yesterday, condemned the Tory council's "failure ... to take any steps whatsoever to recover the £27m now owed to the people of West-

Labour MPs yesterday demanded the recognition of her services to local gov-Government ask the Queen to strip Dame ernment but, in view of the court's judgement, [this House] considers that she is no longer a fit person to hold this honour."

The MPs called upon the Government "to make representations to Her Majesty the Queen to remove from Dame Shirley Porter her DBE".

Conservative former prime minister John Major was also "condemned" by the Labour motion, put down by Hendon MP Andrew Dismore. The motion - which is unlikely to be de-

bated in the Commons but provides a chance for MPs to raise issues they feel icism has yet been made by any Conservstrongly about - fiercely criticises Mr Ma- ative member of this House or of Westjor's silence about the affair.

It states: "This House condemns the fact, despite assurances previously given by the and Mr Weeks were found guilty of "wilformer Conservative prime minister, John ful misconduct resulting in a loss to West-Major, that he would unreservedly condemn minster City Council of £27,023,376 as a Dame Shirley Porter if she were found guilty consequence of their illegal homes for votes made a Dame of the British Empire in in a court of law, no condemnation or crit- gerrymandering policy, the motion states.



Porter: DBE for council service

minster City Council."

The attack comes after Dame Shirley

Search police disciplined

Eleven police officers who failed to find a missing teenager because of confusion over where to look are to be disciplined.

The body of Joanne Eddison. 15, who went missing in May 1996, was discovered nine weeks later on a railway embankment 100 yards from her home in Charlton, south-east London.

Liam Tovell, 16, was later jailed for seven years after admitting manslaughter. But the prosecution claimed in court that he may "have got away with murder" because the delay in finding her body meant it was impossible to determine how she died.

The British Transport Police officers were asked to search the area where the body was found. Five officers from the Metropolitan Police and five from the BTP have received formal warnings or "advice". One BTP officer faces a disciplinary

- Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent



Mechanical mules: Members of the Parachute Regiment trying out quad bikes in the mud on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, yesterday to test their manoeuvrability and performance in carrying heavy weapons and ammunition on the battlefield

Parties agree agenda for Ulster talks The Northern Ireland political talks surmounted another significant hurdle yesterday. As David

McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, reports all parties involved including Sinn Fein – agreed to use Monday's London-Dublin document as a basis for negotiation.

The document, which provided a suggested outline of a scheme with institutions to link not only Belfast, Dublin and London but Glasgow and Cardiff as well, has fulfilled most of the two governments' immediate hopes for it.

But Sinn Fein made it clear that accepting it as a basis for negotiation did not imply approval of its contents. The document envisages Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK though with a substantial new north-south link.

Sinn Fein's policy, it was made clear, remains an end to partition, an option which is not on anyone else's agenda. They will certainly be advancing their arguments in detail, but no one knows whether and when they might lower their sights to the type of arrangements outlined in Monday's document.

Most observers believe this is key moment for the republican movement. One talks participant said: "This is an important, tricky time for them. There's now a piece of paper floating around out there which continues partition."

Negotiations are now scheduled to begin in earnest next Monday. At a brief plenary session yesterday all eight parties indicated their acceptance pragmatic, reasonable and leof the document as a basis for gitimate proposition."

negotiations. Some voiced reserv vations about elements of the document, but many expressed" eagerness to get down to base

school time

sis changes to the

rectation Editor.

All this amounts to a something of a breakthrough, giv that the document has found favour with the two largest Unionist and nationalist parties the Ulster Unionists and SDLP While they approve of the saggested elements of a settlement however, they differ greatly on their relative importance, with nationalists playing up the northsouth institution and Unionis emphasising the relationship with Scotland and Wales.

One nationalist source dismissively referred to the proposed Scottish and Welsh connection as "a solution to a problem which doesn't exist". UUP leader David Trimble. however, said his party wa seeking government briefings on Scottish and Welsh devolution since these were highly relevant to Northern Ireland.

Of Sinn Fein he declared "It's a question for them as to." whether they are going to engage with reality. They haven't bothered to do so yet. This is a party which has just dealt with its wish-list in the past."

Sinn Fein negotiator Mitchel McLaughlin yesterday conveyed a somewhat mixed message, implying in a BBC interview that the party would not accept partition, yet did not expect Irish unity immediately. He said: "If it is the case that there is an attempt, that this route-map is in effect an attempt to impose another partitionist settlement, then it will not work and Sinn Fein will not be part of it."

He added, however: "We are much more realistic than to expect that were going to get a united Ireland immediately. We're on the record as saying that. We have a much more

Paedophile who killed 'wa not properly monitored'

A catalogue of errors was made by social workers in the supervision of a convicted sex offender who went on to kill a boy, a report concluded yesterday.

Thirty-four-year-old Steven Leisk, a paedophile, brutaly strangled Scott Simpson, 9, from Aberdeen, with a scarf last July - two months before a supervision order on him was due to end. The order had been imposed following his earlier release from an 18-month sentence for sexual offences involving a teenage boy.

It was Leisk's fourth conviction for sexual offences against children, yet an independent report published yesterday into the handling of the case revealed that Aberdeen city council social workers had failed to monitor him properly. It says there was a "clear failure" on the part of a social worker, who has not been named, to comply with the requirements of National Standards. However, it adds, it is not possible to conclude that the failure resulted in, or contributed to, "the terrible conclusion to this case".

Luxor victim's body found

The missing body of Luxor massacre victim Karina Turner is in Germany, it emerged yesterday. West Yorkshire coroner Roger Whittaker said that a match for the 24-year-old woman's dental records and DNA samples had been made.

The body of the air stewardess, of Ripponden, West Yorkshire, has been missing since the massacre by Islamic militants on 18 November at the Temple of Queen Hatsheput, in Luxor, Egypt. A body mistakenly identified as Ms Turner's and now in the mortuary in Halifax is believed to be that of a German in whose grave Karina's remains lie. Her daughter, Shaunnah, five, and her mother Joan, 53, also died in the attack. The latter's body also went missing and was later found in Switzerland. The Turner family said last night that they were now planning a joint funeral service for all three.

Clark 'diaries' misleading

The presentation of a parody of Alan Clark's Diaries in the London Evening Standard newspaper gave the impression that it was written by the Conservative MP, the High Court was told yesterday.

Geoffrey Hobbs QC, his counsel, said in a closing submission that the title, Alan Clark's Secret Diary, together with a photograph of him accompanying the column, amounted to false attribution of authorship. He said the "standfirst", in which the Standard said the diary was written by one of its journalists, Peter Bradshaw, did not clarify the situation.

Judgment will be given next week in the case, in which Mr Clark is seeking an injunction and damages. - Kathy Marks

RUC chief's Orange alert

The Chief Constable of the RUC does not want his men to join loyal orders in Northern Ireland. Ronnie Flanagan tells Channel 4's "Dispatches" programme tomorrow that he would prefer members not to be in the Orange Order or Apprentice Boy's. "They (RUC officers) should think very carefully ... whether membership of such organisations are actually compatible with people who view people's perception as to how they might perform their duty." he says. His comments came despite the RUC having its own Orange Lodge.

A Commons Select Committee and the Association of Chief Police Officers are currently looking into the issue.

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schools more time for 3Rs

Big changes to the primary school curriculum to put more emphasis on the 3Rs were announced yesterday. Judith Judd, Education Editor, explains why ministers accepted teachers' complaints that the timetable is overloaded.

Schools will be allowed to spend more time on literacy and numeracy to ensure that they achieve ambitious government targets, David Blunkett, the Sec- cannot read or write." retary of State for Education, announced yesterday. From September they will be able to enough time on the basics but devote more time to English and maths and less to history, geography, design and technology, music, art and physical education.

Ministers have staked their reputation on targets which demand that 80 per cent of 11year-olds reach the expected literacy standard by 2002, and for 75 per cent in numeracy.

Since the national curriculum was introduced a decade ago, teachers have complained that the curriculum is overcrowded and that its detailed prescription has taken the fun out of teaching.

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that he was loosening the straitjacket. At present, detailed programmes of study for all nine primary national curriculum subjects are prescribed by law. The changes mean that teachers will be required to follow the detailed programmes in only English, maths, science and information technology. They will still have to teach the other subjects but will be free to decide what and how

much they teach. Mr Blunkett said: "For too long, too many primary school see standards of literacy imteachers have been prevented from giving literacy and numeracy the attention they de-

serve because the national curriculum has lacked the very clear focus on the basics which is crucial to primary education. As a result literacy and numeracy have been too often subsumed into other subjects."

Schools would still have a statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum" so that children understood our history and culture, he said. "This is not a dumbing down of the curriculum."

Estelle Morris, the schools minister, said: "The problem at the moment for too many children is that they don't get a broad curriculum because they

Inspectors' reports suggest that most schools are spending are not teaching them properly. Ministers believe that new guidance on how to teach literacy and numeracy using mainly traditional methods coupled with the curriculum changes will bring big improvements.

Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, said: "If schools are already meeting the literacy targets there is no need for them to change."

The reforms are being made in advance of a major curriculum revision scheduled for 2000. After the first slimming down of the national curriculum three years ago, the last government promised a five-year moratorium on change which was accepted by Labour.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said it was "one of the best decisions the Government has made. About time too".

Sue Bennett, executive member of the Historical Association, said: "We all want to proved but narrowing the primary curriculum doesn't necessarily achieve that.

Blunkett gives 'Boring' say the children, as teachers await new upheaval



Hard at work: Pupils at Grimes Dyke school, Leeds, where teachers were 'not surprised' by the curriculum change

BY ROBIN

ALEXANDER

wittingly acquired the respon-

definitely to be postponed.

of State for Education, stress-

"It is going to be boring," said Mark Joyce, aged 10, after contemplating the idea of an extra hour reading and writing, and another studying arithmetic.

Mark and his friends at Grimes Dyke Primary School. Leeds, already spend two hours of their five-and-a-quarter-hour school day studying literacy and numeracy. Another two hours would mean the bulk

of their day spent on the three Rs. Teachers at the school said that the announcement of the change yesterday by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, did not come as a surprise. "We were expecting it sooner or later" said Pete Ivatts, year four drama co-ordinator.

"It's clear the Government wants to improve performance according to league tables, and this is the way they think they can achieve it. We don't know yet how it will work."

What the teachers say they do know for certain is that it will mean more uphcaval and change. They expect to work many more hours to replan and balance the school day. "Most of this extra work will be done in our own time," added Mr Ivatts.

History co-ordinator Amanda Mahaffey said she didn't believe the extra hours of reading, writing and arithmetic would mean other subjects would have to go, but it "would probably mean less time for them".

Margaret Isherwood, the head teacher, said the school's priority was reading and writing which she believed was the case in most other schools. "We ... can't pour literacy and numeracy over our children. Some will never take to it and so they must have other subjects in which they can shine."

Well-drilled conformists, or rounded individuals?

For two years from next October, primary schools will not be obliged to teach the national curriculum programmes of study in history, geography, design and technology, art, music and physical education.

But English, mathematics, science and information technology will be safeguarded.

This new "flexibility" is intended to allow schools time to concentrate on literacy and numeracy and to meet claims that the national curriculum, despite the Dearing slim-down of 1993, remains too heavy a burden.

Sceptics will see yesterday's innouncement as capitulation to the view that for the generation of children who have un-

tlement to the "broad and balanced" curriculum of the 1988 ance will need to gloss the inand 1996 Education Acts must not be compromised, and primary schools should continue to "have regard to" the programmes of study in the exempted subjects. Further, this sibility of delivering the Govis a two-vear interim measure ernment's reading and and the promised review of the

numeracy targets for 2002, a national curriculum will go rounded education is a luxury ahead as planned. Yesterday's letter to schools Though we should keep from the Qualifications and such concerns in view during Curriculum Authority (QCA) the statutory period of consulpromises guidance on how tation, the proposals are in breadth and balance can be fact somewhat equivocal. maintained over the next two David Blunkett, the Secretary

junction to schools to continue to "have regard to" the noncore national curriculum subjects in such a way that it helps those schools that wish to diverge from the existing requirements (and many will not) to steer a path between flexibility and chaos. It is not that long since Her Majesty's Inspectorate was deploring the widespread inconsistency between primary schools in just these subjects. The QCA's guid-

ance will also need to help schools to address two princiyears, and sets out the ples not mentioned by Mr Bluntimetable for working towards kett, but without which es standards in the basics. He the introduction of the new na-"breadth and balance" are pretalso insists that children's enti-tional curriculum in 2000.

However, the QCA's guid- gression learning within each dare to grasp, religious eduarea of the curriculum; and con- cation? tinuity in the various subjects. The QCA must also attend

> to the longer term. How should the familiar version of the primary school "basics" connect formation technology, problem-solving and working with others demanded by employers? Or with education and for citizenship (another of David Blunkett's concerns)? Or with the personal values and dispositions identified in 1996 by the Values forum?

What of the arts and the humanities, once again confronting relegation to the status of educational frill? And what Authority. The views expressed ty meaningless: sustained pro- of that nettle which few yet here are his own,

In reviewing the National Curriculum, we have a choice between adjustment at the margins and a fundamental rethink. With the emphasis now with the "basic skills" of in- on opportunity, empowerment and lifelong learning the task of primary schools is rather more ambitious and visionary that providing a minimal education for the urban masses with a view to ensuring social conformity and well-run fac-

Robin Alexander is Professor of Education at the University of Warwick and a member of the Qualifications and Curriculum

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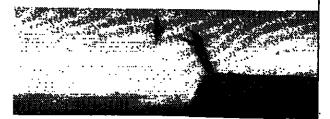
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How Labour takes advantage of a privileged position

Tony Blair's government makes more use of Heathrow's VIP facilities than its Tory predecessor did, it emerged last night. The cost of suites for British and foreign dignitaries amounted to £1.6m in the seven months from May. Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent, reports on suspicions that new Labour may have been too free with its

privileges.

Robin Cook used them, famously, to tell to around 40 uses a day - a 10 per cent inhis wife that their marriage was over after learning that a tabloid newspaper was about to reveal he was having an affair, but most passengers have time for no more than a

quick coffee before boarding their flights. Labour seems to have need of the five VIP suites - one in each terminal and a separate one for Royalty and other dignitaries with their own planes - more than the previous Tory administration.

They were used 8,400 times between

crease on the same period last year when the facilities were used 7,636 times.

The busiest month was September, when the facilities were hired a total of 1.391 times at a total cost of £266,411, according to a parliamentary answer from the Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett.

The facilities are hired by the Government from Heathrow, and are run for it by airport staff. They allow VIP passengers to avoid queuing for check-in desks, passport 1 May and 30 November this year at an av-control and customs. Instead officials erage cost per visit of £191. That adds up come to them to check their bags.

bench spokesman on foreign and commonwealth affairs, said his party suspected that Labour had been too free with such

"New Labour has been very casual about spending taxpayers' money on its own creature comforts and here is one example of that. Particularly, I think the Foreign Secretary has used these facilities for himself and other members of his entourage,"

The Conservatives plan to continue to table parliamentary questions to find out

Gary Streeter, a Conservative front- how much the Government has been spending on this and other types of hospitality. If they feel that liberties have been taken, they plan to make more formal com-

Although a Heathrow spokeswoman said the VIP lounges were definitely not "a luxury service", a Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman said they did often afford the facilities for two ministers to meet for a chat. The suites were "extensive" and allowed dignitaries the use of private rooms so they need not be disturbed.

Junior ministers did not usually use and passports to be processed efficiently.

als, heads of state, Tony Blair and cabinet ministers, heads of defence services, ambassadors and high commissioners and the heads of international organisations. "They ensure the smooth and dignified procession through the airport and are a mark of respect to the status of the VIP," he said.

The Heathrow spokeswoman said most people did not spend much time in the VIP suites. But when, for example, President Clinton arrived with two Boeing 747s full of his entourage, they allowed their bags

Tories say Davies has no right to judge Welsh poll

There were angry scenes in Westminster as the Secretary of State for Wales faced questions about his handling of September's referendum on devolution. But while he will hope the spat marked the end of the affair, Fron Abrams writes, the Tories are determined to pursue it.

Ron Davies's need to preserve his own job made him an unfit judge of whether there were irregularities in the referendum

count, a Conservative MP said yesterday. "It is your political career that is on the line if this project fails," Owen Paterson told Mr Davies at a hearing of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

"You have more to lose than virtually anyone and you are in a very difficult position being judge and jury."

Mr Davies hit back by saying Mr Paterson, who represents the English seat of Shropshire North, had little right to address the matter. "You are speaking for no-one but yourself," he retorted after Mr Paterson said he represented 550,000 people who voted against a Welsh Assembly.

He said Mr Paterson was making "personal accusations that I am covering up something because it is for my own polit-

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ical convenience. That is not the case and frankly it is offensive," he said.

"I do hope we have now seen an end to this unsubstantiated campaign of smear and innuendo against decent, honourable, hard-working public servants."

Mr Paterson responded that as the only MP on the committee against devolution he had a right to speak. With a majority of just 6,700, or 0.6 per cent, in favour there must be no questions left unanswered. "It is crucial that if this assembly goes ahead it isn't built on the shifting sands of doubt."

The committee chairman, Martyn Jones, stepped in to end the exchange after it became heated, reminding the two men that they were there to discuss Welsh economic development.

of the committee to speak in support of Mr Davies. Julie Morgan, Labour member for Cardiff North, rejected the Conservatives' claim to speak for "no" voters. "Mr Paterson doesn't even represent a

However, he did allow other members

constituency in Wales and cannot speak on behalf of anybody in Wales," she said. Meanwhile, Michael Ancram, the Conservatives' constitutional spokesman, claimed the credibility of the "yes" vote was still in doubt despite a statement by Mr

Davies on the matter on Monday. A senior judge should be appointed to carry out a "short, sharp, in-depth and independent inquiry," he said.



Single ticket: Foreign Secretary Robin Cook arriving at the House of Commons yesterday. It was confirmed last night that Mr Cook took his partner, Gaynor Regan, on official visits in the autumn but a Foreign and Commonwealth Office official said no additional public expense was involved

Prescott targets hereditary peers after vote on London mayor stalled

Tory peers inflicted a defeat on the to put off for over a year a referendum on plans to

give London a mayor with an assembly. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says John Prescott sees it as another nail in the coffin

for the hereditary peers.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, last night vowed the referendum on a London mayor and an assembly would go ahead in May in spite of a would delay the referendum be-

in the House of Lords.

hereditary peers for inflicting the defeat on the Government and seeking to frustrate proposals which are expected to have widespread popular support when the referendum takes

The Lords passed an amendment to the Greater year." London Authority (Referendum) Bill, by 128 to 122, calling for the poll to be delayed until eight weeks after the Government's legislation setting out its plans for the new struc-

tures was published. Ministerial sources said it

tic vote denying Londoners the chance to make their choice next year, decided by a handful

of unelected hereditary peers.

"We fully intend to come back to the Commons to restore the right of the electors to vote in a referendum in May this

The defeat was seen as another nail in the coffin for the hereditary peers, and took place as a Cabinet committee chaired by Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, began discussions about the Government's plans to re-

form the House of Lords. The reforms will be intro-

yond the millennium. But Mr duced gradually, but there were Prescott immediately hit back, growing expectations that the Mr Prescott attacked the saying: "It is an anti-democra- Government will act first on removing the right of hereditary peers to vote in the Lords.

A small number, possibly about 20, of leading hereditary peers would be given life peerages to continue an active role in the Lords, but most hereditary peers would have to quit their places in the Upper

Tony Benn warned vesterday that the left wing will be pressing for the Lords reforms to go further, to have the Upper Chamber elected in order to avoid it becoming a super quango under the patronage of the prime minister.

Brainstorming on agenda of Blair's US visit

Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie, are to fly to Washington just three weeks after their return yesterday from a five-day trip to Japan.

Part of the visit to meet President Bill Clinton and senior United States politicians will be a "brainstorming" event and the focus could be on tackling crime, in which case Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, would go along too, and the Prime Minister could use the visit to give a public vote of confidence

Mr Blair has lavished praise on his Home Secretary twice in three days, insisting that he behaved "superbly" in his handling of allegations that his son, William, 17, sold cannabis to an undercover reporter.

The brainstorming event follows a similar session last year at Chequers when First Lady Hillary Clinton and a group of US experts discussed with Mr Blair and British experts issues such as healthcare.

The Prime Minister also hopes to use the visit to "sell" to politicians with an interest in Northern Ireland the British and Irish governments' handling of the peace-process.

For the second time since taking office, Mr Blair plans to fly on Concorde to the US for the visit, between 4 and 7 February. To mark Britain's presidency of the European Union, Downing Street is considering taking along a group of London-based journalists working for European newspapers and media organisations as an experiment.

Tory MPs to let rest of party vote for leader

Tory MPs are balloting today on the way they select their next leader after William Hague. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says they are likely to support a system that could have given former Chancellor Ken Clarke victory over Mr Hague.

Conservative MPs are poised to throw away their most important power by giving up their exclusive right to choose their leader in favour of one member, one vote (Omov) democracy in the Tory party.

The change may be enough to have older Tories choking on their pink gins. Right wing party activists who oppose a ballot of the whole party to choose the next leader said last night it would have meant that Kenneth Clarke would have beaten William Hague for the leadership and Margaret Thatcher would never have been chosen.

"You will just get the most famous of the candidates. The party would have been stuck with Ken Clarke. Heseltine could have won. But Thatcher would never have been selected," said a right wing Tory activist.

It is unclear whether OMOV would give Chris Patten the edge in a leadership election over Michael Portillo. Both would first have to win seats at Westminster and Mr Hague will not go before the next election, but the change has added spice to the speculation in the Tory party about their possible return.

The party in the country is keen to assert its rights after the 1 May electoral disaster, for which the MPs bore the brunt of the blame. The Conservative Democratic Movement claimed yesterday that a survey showed a clear majority in favour of Omov.

Smokin

The survey also showed that ordinary members found Tory Central Office remote and bureaucratic. Mr Hague has made it clear that he supports Omov for the future.

The grass roots campaign for change gained momentum when Archie Hamilton, chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers, did a U-turn and backed Omov with the executive and a majority of the committee in a letter to Tory MPs.

The MPs have a range of options, but they are being urged to back a system in which a challenge could be mounted after a vote of no confidence; that would trigger a primary leadership contest among the MPs to weed out the wild cards before allowing a shortlist to go before the full membership.

Archie Norman, vice-chairman of the party, also now supports Omov. John Horam, a former minister, and Richard Ottoway, a Tory spokesman on London, are campaigning for the system in tomorrow's ballot and are confident of vic-

It is part of a consultation exercise on Blueprint for Change, a reform green paper which opposed Omov.

Tory chairmen are meeting in London on 17 January to discuss their response to the document for final agreement at a conference in the spring.







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Osition



No-go area: The Government wants more people to cycle, but is also cracking down on what some call 'Lycra louts'

£20 fines for 'Lycra louts' who pedal on pavement

Cyclists face £20 fines for riding on pavements as a result of a government strategy to double the number of cycle journeys

Ministers have been quick to trumpet the need to get people to substitute short car journeys with cycling jaunts as a way

of reducing congestion and pollution. Already planned are more cycle paths as well as well a nation-wide cycle network. But with the carrot comes a stick - that of fixed-penalty notices.

Endangering pedestrians by taking to the footpath on two wheels has been illegal since 1835.

Offenders face two months in jail or a £2,500 fine but cases are rarely brought to court by hard-pressed prosecutors.

News of the new deterrent came to light ifter a parliamentary answer from Alun Michael, a Home Office minister, which confirmed that fines for offending cyclists would be part of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1998.

The move did not please the Cyclists Photograph: Nicola kurtz Touring Club, which campaigns for cycling

rights. It attacked the development as "unfair and unnecessary".

A spokesman said: "Bicycles on pavements is a symptom of generally poor facilities for cyclists. Fines will only force riders back on to dangerous roads or put them off using a bicycle, full stop."

The move was described by the Daily Mail as a crackdown against "Lycra louts", cyclists who plough through red lights or use the pavement to avoid busy roads.

In fact, it is a recognition by the Government of the problems they will face handling more cyclists.

In 1995 more than 350 pedestrians the most recorded - were hurt or killed by cyclists.

Last year two people were killed and

nearly 90 injured. Other measures being considered include forcing cyclists to carry bells so that pedestrians can be warned of danger and, more controversially, coaxing bikers

CITROËN

— Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Web quacks add to GPs' work load

Hypochondriac Internet surfers are looking up ailments and then convincing themselves they have lifethreatening symptoms.

Rosa Prince says doctors are wasting valuable time reassuring patients frightened by misinformation.

Rogue Internet sites are accumulating on the Web from all over the world, offering magic cures, warning of dire new diseases or giving bad advice even

for simple ailments. In other cases, patients, stumbled across a miracle cure on the Internet.

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David Pearce, a Leeds GP, said: "The main worry is that anybody can put information on the Internet about diseases. The false hope this can bring to patients, particularly those who are suffering from chronic illnesses and are very vulnerable.

is terrible. There are even discussion groups where doctors will make diagnoses of people who type in their symptoms via the Internet. It's a nightmare."

On a recent British Medical Journal search of 41 Web pages to discover the best way to treat a child with fever, only four gave the correct diagnosis. The problem is proving particularly bad for doctors treating pa-

tients with serious illnesses. mation about the disease, lead- GPs don't have."

ing them to large amounts of false advice. Peter Chambers, of the charity CancerBACUP, said: "The Internet provides an example of how a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

He said some cancer patients acting on Web information took hydrazine sulphate, which is derived from rocket fuel and is ineffective against cancer, and stopped taking their anti-nausea and pain-relieving drugs when they reacted with the hydrazine. BACUP responded by creating its own Web site to provide accurate information.

Doctors tell patients interested in the Internet to use it wisely by accessing credible organisations and help-groups. Iona Heath, who has a surgery some with serious diseases, are north London, said: "There is given the impression they have an awful lot of garbage out there

... but it can be helpful too. The Web can sometimes be very good for people with rare diagnosis when they can learn more than I can tell them."

John Chisholm, chairman of the BMA's GPs Council, said: "People have to use a bit of discretion when using the Internet but doctors have to recognise more and more people are going to be using it. Often they can become experts and get a lot of useful information."

Some GPs are worried they do not have the time to cope with the challenges of the Web. Grant Kelly, chairman of the BMA's General Practice Computing Group, said: "You get people coming into the surgery and saying 'I want to try this drug or that treatment'. It's not a problem, as we can talk it over When a person is first diag- and usually explain why it is not nosed, family and friends often appropriate, but it is all taking search the Internet for infor- a long time and that's one thing

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Smoking damage lasts a lifetime

may last a lifetime, says a study which suggests that even smokers who give up may have done

Doctors had believed that the and lung cancer returned to zero after about 10 years, but the new research casts doubt on this. It found the effects on arteries may be cumulative and that even passive smoking may cause permanent damage.

American researchers who studied almost 11,000 middleaged adults found that atherosclerosis - thickening of the arteries - was 50 per cent worse in smokers than in non-smokers, as expected. However, it was also 25 per cent worse in past smokers than in people who had never smoked, suggesting a persistent effect of smoking.

The arteries were thickest in those who had smoked most for longest and their thickness was less strongly linked with whether they were current or past smokers. The scientists used ultrasound to measure by

The harmful effects of cigarettes how much the walls of the carotid artery thickened over a three-year period.

The study - conducted by reirreversible damage to their searchers at Wake Forest University, North Carolina, and published in the Journal of the increased risk of heart disease American Medical Association also found a "surprisingly large" correlation between passive smoking and atherosclerosis. In those exposed to other people's smoke for at least one hour a week thickening of the arteries was 20 per cent worse than in those who breathed clean air.

The British Heart Foundation said smokers should not use the findings as an excuse not to give up. A spokesman said: "There are physical changes that occur when you give up that makes stopping smoking a very important issue for preventing heart disease and arteriosclerosis. Nobody has ever said arteries heal themselves up when you stop smoking. What this research says is that they carry on thickening, but the process does slow down.

--- Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Shipwreck blamed on open hatches

A failure to close several hatches on the Sapphire trawler, which sank last year with the loss of four lives, was partly to blame for the tragedy, investigators revealed yesterday.

A safety bulletin, issued by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch in advance of the conclusion of the inquiry, said the open weather-tight hatches "almost certainly contributed to the rapid and catastrophic flooding of all the main compartments". It continued: "Escape from a vessel in such a situation is extremely difficult."

The MAIB also blamed inadequate maintenance for the failure of the trawler's emergency positioning radio beacon.

The only survivor, skipper Victor Robertson, escaped through the wheelhouse window as the trawler sank in rough weather as it returned to Peterhead harbour in Scotland. The families of the dead men began an appeal to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds after the Government refused to finance the recovery of the bodies of Victor Podlesny, Adam Stephen, Robert Stephen and Bruce Cameron.

The shipping minister, Glenda Jackson, and the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, pledged to review the Government's policy on wreck-raising.



Last respects: Long-time friend Denis Norden attending the funeral yesterday of writer and comedian Frank Muir, who died suddenly last week. The service was held at St Mary's church, Thorpe, Surrey Photograph: Brian Harris

PPP healthcare gives you immediate access to hospital treatment from around £15 a month

Tong NHS hospital waiting of life these days. They are currently at their highest ever - over 1.2 million. And many of those waiting are having to spend weeks. months, even years with painful conditions - not knowing when their turn for treatment will come round.

were one of those people? Would you still be able to work? If you had a family, how would they cope? It doesn't even have to be a serious illness conditions such as varicose veins, torn ligaments and gall stones are all very painful to live with - yet operations for these have some of the

How would you feel if you

longest waiting lists of all. The sad thing is that so many people could easily have avoided long waiting lists - if they had realised how affordable high quality private medical insurance can be, and how easy it is to arrange.

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Council left children at risk in danger

Nearly one in five children at risk of abuse were left without a social worker, according to a review of Sheffield social services. The Audit Commission has ordered it to clean up its act. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, examines its findings.

Children and older people were left exposed to "unacceptable risk" because the authority was failing to carry out its statutory duties, a joint review by the Audit Commission and Social Services Inspectorate says today.

Sheffield, the third-largest metropolitan district in England, has been given six months to implement "major and urgent action" to deal with the failings and shortcomings or leaders will be summoned by the health minister, Paul Boateng, to explain themselves.

The review found that of 535 children on the at-risk register, 93 were without an allocated social worker and more than half had reviews overdue.

"If you make a referral [about a child], nothing will be done," said a statutory agency. You have to push and push to get any response - you really have to chase them."

The report said: "It is unacceptable for any child on the child-protection register to be without an allocated social

stand how the authority allowed this situation to persist, given the nature of its responsibilities towards such children."

More than 2,500 volnerable adults and elderly people were waiting for assessments and others, having been assessed, were waiting for services. This included 80 stuck in hospital and taking up beds because their asessments had not been done.

Sheffield, more than other authorities surveyed, relies on residential care for the elderly. mainly provided by council homes. But the reviewers found three-quarters of residential homes had not been inspected by the council. Users of social services were much less likely to rate the help they received as good than in other authorities and 15 per cent rated it as poor or very poor.

The main difficulty the team found was that the authority lacked an overall strategy for responding to its difficult financial situation. Managers were often unable to get hold of information which would help them make necessary changes. The council should also cal-

culate how much every service provided costs, whether they are of good quality and whether they are effective.

Sheffield City Council said it was taking "immediate action" to address the criticism of social services and would be launching a three-year plan to improve services across the

Food firms hit by recruitment crisis

tors, food is Britain's new ratory. In fact, we are a lot more rock'n'roll. But despite the bur- varied and exciting. They are geoning interest, food compa- also put off by silly things like nies are facing a recruitment having to wear a hairnet. crisis that could have serious implications for public health, warns an industry survey.

To many school-leavers, the industry remains an unglamorous world of white coats and hairnets, and the result is an alarming shortage of qualified food technicians.

so you have no anxieties about A survey of 65 manufacturclaiming. And they'll help you through the ing companies by recruitment consultants Daniels Bates Partnership for The Independent has revealed that 14 per cent of firms have no bygiene or quality manager. Major companies said they were having immense problems recruiting staff.

Tim Lang, professor of food policy at Thames Valley University, said: "It's very worrying. The food industry has got its highest-ever profile in peacetime and yet it needs to do some long and hard thinking about how it recruits graduates. Part of the problem is that food is still seen as a low-class, low-wage

Shirley Heaney, personnel nanager of British Bakeries, said: "There is a misconception among young people that if they are training to be scientists

According to style commenta- they will be working in a labo-

"As bakers we have got to get the message across that ... we are at the cutting edge of some of the food fashions. We need creative people interested in food to help us develop these concepts and ideas."

John Cridland, resourcing manager at HJ Heinz in Wigan. Greater Manchester, is also experiencing staffing problems. "It is very difficult to rectuit good quality managers with relevant experience and man management skills because there is a shortage of suitably

qualified candidates," he said. News of the crisis comes on the day the Government publishes its long-awaited White-Paper on the new, independent Food Standards Agency.

On the BBC's Food and Drink programme last night Professor Hugh Pennington who carried out the investigation tion into the E. coli outbreak in Scotland which killed 20 people said not enough was being done to prevent further such outbreaks. Last year, a record 100,000 people suffered from food poisoning.

DAILY POEM

Thanksgiving

By Derek Walcott

Miraculous as when a small cloud of cabbage-whites circles a bush, the first flakes of the season spun over Brookline, on Beucon; the afternoon lights would come on by four, but everyone said, "So soon?" at the multiplying butterflies, though it was late November but also because they had forgotten the mirucle, though the trees were stricken und brief days' ember didn't catch in their firewood; they did not recall the elation flakes and butterflies that their element is a joy quickly forgotten, and thus with the fall certainly gone, the leaves dimmed, their flare spent, the old metaphor whispered to everyone's mouthabout age, white hair, the Arctic virginity of death, that the flakes spun like ashes; but before my heart fled soo my farewell confirmed by the signature of your breath, white butterflies circling, settling in your hair, that could soothe your closed eyelids trembling like cubbuge-whites on my island roud, the sea's scales stuttering in the sun.

Our Daily Poems until Monday 19 January (when the winner will be announced) come from the volumes shortlisted for the 1997 T S Eliot Prize, presented by the Poetry Book Society, All the authors will take part in a reading next Sunday, 18 January, at 7.30pm in the Almeida Theatre, London 182 (box office: 0171 359 4404). This poem comes from The Bounty (Faber, £7.99). © Derek Walcott.

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Jesterday Cleared killing his baby da: by shaking her to her crying.

Only a miracle saved Docklands from devastation by bombers, jury told

Two men went on trial yesterday accused of plotting the massive Docklands bombing in London which left two people dead and ended an 18-month IRA

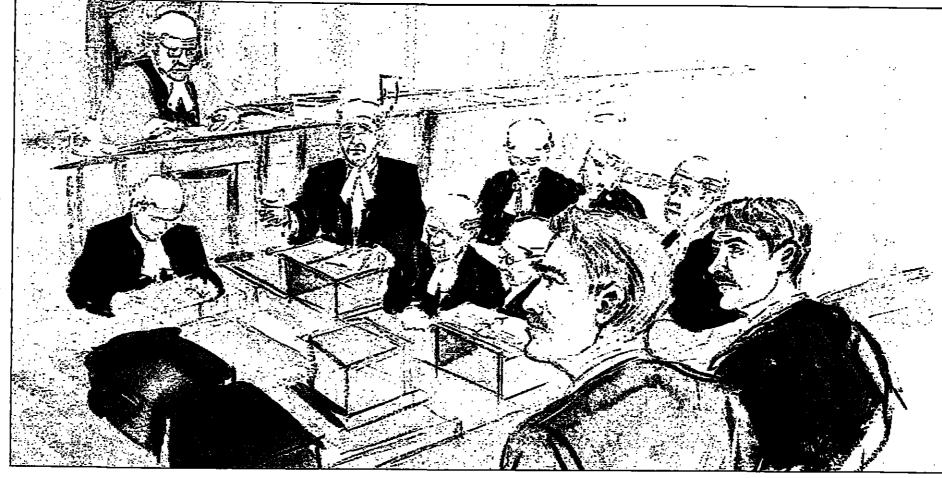
ceasefire. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, was in court to hear

It was "little short of a miracle" that an enormous lorry bomb packed with homemade explosives only killed two people - when both men were blasted through two walls - the Old Bailey heard.

The court was told details of dozens of injuries caused by flying debris, including a woman who needed 300 stitches in her face and a family of three who were sitting in a car yards from the bomb. The damage was estimated at £150m.

Ulstermen Patrick McKinley, 34, from Newry, and James McCardle, 29, from Crossmaglen, are accused of conspiring to cause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious injury. Both deny the charges relating to the explosion at 6.59pm at South Quay, east London, on 9 February 1996. Mr McCardle has also denied

John Bevan QC, for the to the explosion. But he ad- convert a flat-bed truck in



palm prints were found on a number of items that link him

Girl found body of

Cardle was one of the bombers dence to suggest Mr McKinley, and that finger, thumb and a mechanic, was involved in planting the explosive device. He accused him of helping

explosive made from fertiliser

and icing sugar. Mr Bevan also outlined the fries, who failed to leave the a crater 32ft across and 10ft waited in their car 40 yards

prosecution, said that Mr Mc mitted that there was no evi- Northern Ireland into a vehi- impact of the bomb, which area in time, died after being deep. Debris was found 300 cle transporter that was later was detonated by a two-bour blown through two walls by the yards away. filled with tons of homemade delay switch fitted with Semtex.

A newsagent and his assistant, Inam Bashir and John Jef-

lorry bomb that was parked outside their shop.

Zaoul Berrezag, his 17year-old son and 14-year-old The massive explosion left daughter, were injured as they

The scene inside the Old Bailey yesterday as the case was outlined against James McCardie (left) and Patrick McKinley (right)

Artist's impression: Enterprise News and Pictures

from the bomb after finishing

a cleaning job. Mr Berrezag, a 55-year-old Moroccan, suffered total loss of memory and had only made a marginal recovery. His son suffered facial injuries and a

perforated eardrum. Another victim, Barbara Osei, had 300 stitches to her face and suffered penetration to her right eye. Dozens of other people were hit by flying

glass and debris. Mr Bevan said: "Inaccurate and, from the point of view of timing, wholly inadequate warnings were given by telephone to a number of people. Those warnings did not begin to give the police sufficient time to warn and evacuate the many thousands of people at work and leaving work in the

He said there had been a "dummy run" from Northern Ireland to Carlisle in January 1996 and the following month it was driven to South Quay filled with explosives.

The case, which is due to last about five weeks, continues

murdered mother hidden inside carpet firms hit by

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yesterday of the "ear-splitting prints taken from sheets of pa- from a business meeting. scream" let out by a girl after per found in Mr Farrant's flat finding her murdered mother rolled up inside a carpet in the

loft of her luxury home. found the body of Glenda had been asphyxiated in her bath I will not repeat myself. by a former lover, Victor Farrant, whom the prosecution alleges had carried out an attack on a prostitute, Ann Fidler, just two weeks earlier.

Mrs Fidler was so badly beaten that her husband "recognised her as a human being but not as his wife" after she was hit about the head and after having her face smashed through the toughened glass of an oven door. She is permanently braindamaged and can remember nothing of the incident.

Mr Farrant, 48, a former builder, denies murdering Mrs Hoskins, a 45-year-old accountant from Port Solent, Portsmouth, in February 1996, and attempting to murder Mrs Fidler, 45, the former manageress of an escort agency in Eastleigh, Hampshire.

Jeremy Gibbons QC, for the prosecution, said DNA tests on blood and semen linked Mr

in Portsmouth

One, which Mr Gibbons said was intended for Mrs Hoskins scream," said Mr Gibbons. Katie Hoskins, then 15, to read before her death, read: "Take these instructions to be Mrs Fidler, a prostitute who Hoskins after a police search had very serious. Fuck me about or refuse to do anything I ask and Crown Court was told that she you will be tied up and gagged. "You will not get a second

chance. If I have to use violence to get what I want, I will. It will make no difference to me, I am going to get what I want either way. The choice is yours.

"Be good and willing to me and you will come to no harm. I will be gentle, but remember you must show willing and be Mr Gibbons alleged that

Hoskins was attempting to break off a three-year relationship with Mr Farrant. He said an examination of Mrs Hoskins' body suggested she had been pulled sharply by

the ankles while in the bath. Then something was held over her mouth while she was suffocated underwater. Her naked body, hair still

"wet and bedraggled" was found by Katie when she and Tony Hoskins, the victim's es-Farrant to the scene of both at- tranged husband, called police

A Crown Court jury was told tacks. He also read details of im- when she failed to return home

"Police had already been up there but then Katie went up and there was an ear-splitting Earlier, the jury was told how

worked from home, was found barely alive by her husband. Brett, allegedly after a visit by Mr Farrant. Mr Fidler, who knew of his wife's business, returned home on 27 December 1995 to find it in darkness. He went into the kitchen and turned on the light.

"He saw a human being slumped in a pool of blood against the tumble dryer, but ... he could not tell who it was," said Mr Gibbons, Glass and blood, he said, were splattered around the kitchen. Mrs Fidler the letters were written as Mrs. had massive head injuries and had to have part of her brain re-

> The court was told that an iron was used to beat her head so hard that it broke clear of its handle. The necks of three bottles used in the attack were found in a waste bin. All bore Mr Farrant's finger or palm prints. DNA samples from blood at the scene matched Mr Farrant's. He was arrested in France in July 1996 and returned

> to England in January last year.

The case continues.

Royal Navy officer cleared of shaking crying baby to death

A Royal Navy officer was yesterday cleared of killing his baby daughter by shaking her to stop her crying. Louise Jury reports.

A jury of eight men and four women yesterday cleared Lieutenant Paul Chalmers of the manslaughter of his five-monthold daughter Sarah after more than five hours of deliberations.

Lieutenant Chalmers, 29, is now set to resume duty at Portland Naval Base in Dorset, but admitted his life had been completely changed by the 14-month ordeal since the baby died.

"The circumstances of the legal action have changed my life, but emotionally I'm still coming to terms with it. I don't feel I have been able to grieve. I don't know what the reason is, I just have not been able to show emotion," he

He told the Bristol court he

could not recall the few seconds Woodward was accused in an in which the alleged incident American court of having shaktook place. After the case fin- en Matthew Eappen, a baby in ished he said: "I still cannot her care, causing injuries which believe it now." The Crown had alleged that

Lieutenant Chalmers, of Ilchester, Somerset, had shaken his baby to stop her crying after returning home after a hard day at work. Sarah suffered a brain haemorrhage on 8 November. 1996, and died in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, the following day after an emergency operation was unsuccessful.

Ian Pringle, for the prosecution, said Lieutenant Chalmers, who also has a twoyear-old son James, lost his temper while his wife. Maureen.

was visiting neighbours. Prosecution witness Dr Hugh White, a pathologist, said the probably cause of Sarah's injuries was "non-accidental", but conceded this was a "rather controversial area in medicine

at the moment". The British au pair Louise in tears.

led to his death. She was convicted of second-degree murder. later reduced by the judge to manslaughter.

Under cross-examination. Dr White said that caring parents might be "unaware of the dangers of shaking a baby". But he said the risk was now being raised by agencies including the NSPCC.

Neil Sweeney, for the defence, said the injury was a "tragic accident" and that Lieutenant Chalmers had not intended any harm.

Recorder Mark Dver accepted a majority verdict and praised the jury for its close attention to the case, "Parts of the evidence were almost unbearably poignant," he said.

As the verdict was read out. Lieutenant Chalmers and members of his family broke down

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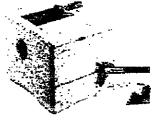
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Labour laid out its stall in Peking yesterday to persuade Chinese companies to invest in Britain. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, launched a multimedia show for businessmen and officials, promising a 'warm welcome'. Teresa Poole reports on attempts to win a new source of East Asian ter to Gordonstoun. The exhibition was part of investment for Britain.

The investment trail between China and Britain has so far been a one-way street, but Ms Beckett yesterday made a preemptive strike, preparing for a day when Chinese companies will follow in the footsteps of among the Chinese, most of their Japanese and South Ko- whom still ask visiting Brits rean counterparts and seek a about the fog in London.

foothold in Europe. "I know that it will not be long before your enterprises are British relations, now that the ready to compete globally.7 she told a conference hall full of invited Chinese. "Your presence eign Secretary, arrives in Peking in the United Kingdom will be on Monday, when he will have most highly valued and I very much look forward to welcoming more Chinese enterprises policy will mean for China.

into the UK in what I consider your real gateway to Europe." So far there are about 30 small Chinese investments in the UK, ranging from the Inner Mongolia Erdos Cashmere sion. She admitted that, while Group to the Bank of China. But Britain was by far the biggest China has a total of 5.500 overseas projects worldwide, the majority in Asia and Australia, and the British government is trying to catch the eye of Peking British exports to China are

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content at a great price is what many of

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is still several years away. the economic meltdown else-

cluding South Korea and Japan. China's emergence as a country with money to spend was evident at the weekend, when 30,000 Pekingers flocked to a two-day exhibition mounted by 100 UK universities and training colleges to attract Chinese students. Such was the unexpected interest that most of the prospectuses had run out by Saturday lunchtime. One provincial cadre from central China even rang up the British embassy recently saying he was interested in sending his daugh-

the Britain in China 1998" campaign, which will cover everything from the Royal National Theatre's performance of Othello in Peking to a planned visit by Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, later this year. The idea is to raise Britain's profile

Ms Beckett stressed that her visit was a "fresh start" to Sino-Hong Kong handover was out of the way. Robin Cook. the Forto make clear what Britain's new human rights-oriented foreign

UK emphasis this week was firmly on the commercial relationship, although no new deals were signed by the British businessmen on Ms Beckett's misforeign investor in China, its trade performance "could perhaps do better", given the substantial trade deficit with China.

ahead of its European rivals, far behind those of Germany, without its headaches. even if any significant investment France and Italy, although they did increase 26 per cent in the Britain is also well aware that first 10 months of 1997 to £738.7m. Imports of Chinese where in East Asia will reduce goods into the UK during the projects from other countries in- same period were £2.04bn.



Western products have become increasingly trendy in China. But will Chinese investors buy into the countries that make the goods?

Photograph: AP

but for British firms, the Eastern honeymoon is over

British investment in China has soared sevenfold in four years as companies seek low costs and new markets. But Teresa Poole visits one company that has shipped in a whole production line and finds that the move is not

Chen Jingyuan thinks himself very lucky. The 32-year-old graduate engineer used to work for a Chinese state-owned printing

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factory. But in 1995, Britain's leading supermarket plastic-bag manufacturer shut its factory in Telford, Shropshire, sacked the 150 employees, and shipped all the machines to south China. It was bad news for British workers, a big gamble for the company, and a great opportunity for the Chinese engineer.

Mr Chen was hired by British Polythene Industries (BPI) to work in the new joint-venture factory and sent to Telford to learn his new skills from the very people who were about to lose their jobs. "There was fresh air, and it was green everywhere and very neat," he recalled fondly.

Chinese colleagues work on the production lines which used to sit in Telford. The Xinhui factory now churns out plastic bags at a rate of four million a day, carrying such familiar slogans as "Fresh from Sainsbury's" and "Keep Britain Tidy". Ninety per cent of the output ends up in British supermarkets, including Safeway, Boots and Mace.

BPI pays well above local salaries, and has had four applicants for every job. But Mr Chen earns just £2,300 a year, compared with the £21,000 or so he would cost BPI in Britain. At a nearby machine, 23-year-old Wu Jianming takes home about £1,100 a year, twice what he earned before at a state cement agreement was signed in No- business," Ms Wong said. factory but a fraction of a British vember 1993, just as China im-

doomed Telford, plus the fact that BPI invested £3m for a 60 per liable Chinese partner and also na overnight." he raw material costs were 10 per cent lower in Asia. By 1995, nearly three-quarters of northern Europe's supermarket bags were already being imported by BPI's rivals, mostly from Asia. Last year BPI closed another United Kingdom plastic-bag production line, cutting another 104 jobs and moving more machines to Xinhui. The company's UK plasticbag production is now down to 10 million a day.

But raw accounts are not everything, especially in China where the best-laid business plan is at the mercy of government cadres. There are now more than 2,000 Sino-British joint ventures in China, accounting for actual investment of US\$4.482bn (£2.85bn) by the end of September 1997. But pledged investment plunged last year, by about 40 per cent. It is

These days, Mr Chen and 145 wary, the Chinese government cent stake while the Chinese had strong contacts with the admits foreign investment this year will fall by up to one-third. The honeymoon is over.

When BPI set up in Xinhui, a city of 850,000 people amid the industrial sprawl of southern Guangdong province, there was culture shock on both sides. BPI is pleased with its investment, but John Bunnell, head of the retail division, is clear about the problems. "The delays caused by Chinese bureaucracy are difficult to understand at first. The pace is that of a marathon rather than a series of 100m sprints."

A change in China's national policy postponed the opening of the factory by five months. The joint venture piementeo a severe creon na

partner, a Xinhui state enterprise called High Point, took 40 per cent in return for providing a newly built factory.

But Chinese bank loans suddenly dried up, and High Point could not raise funds for the building. Angela Wong, a successful Hong Kong businesswoman in her mid-forties, had introduced BPI to High Point. and was chairman of the new joint-venture company. She desperately tried to fix up funding and reassure BPI executives.

The BPI board had never been to China, and the shareholders did not understand why the project was not on time. That was the worst time I've faced in

It was these sums that crunch to cool the economy. to Ms Wong, who identified a re- "Nobody makes money in Chi-

Xinhui government.

For the Chinese staff, most of whom came from the overmanned state sector, the biggest shock was being expected to keep busy while on shift. "At first it was a bit tiring, but gradually I got accustomed to it," Mr Chen said. Staffing levels at Xinhui are the same as they were in Telford. "We are committed to exactly the same standards of health and safety, weifare and hygiene," insisted Mr Bunnell.

For BPI the learning curve has been worthwhile and more investments are planned. But, as the figures show, foreign companies are increasingly frustrated by the struggle of doing business in China. As Mar-In fact, for China, BPI has garet Beckett, President of the



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Lift-off at last for Hong Kong airport

One of the world's largest and its way, forcing the Hong Kong most expensive airports will open for business on 6 July, the Hong Kong government announced yesterday. Although Sir Donald Tsang, the financial secretary, said Hong Kong International Airport was opening on budget and on time, it is a year behind schedule.

Unlike most big infrastructure projects, Hong Kong's air-port has not suffered from building delays, but political wrangling between Britain and China which marked the dying years of the colonial regime.

Problems over financing the airport reached such an impasse that the former prime minister John Major was forced to go to Peking in 1991 to try to sort He was furious to find him-

self in a position of being the first Western leader to visit the Chinese capital after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

His visit barely moved the logiam. In the end, Peking got

HK\$155bn (£12.4bn) project largely out of its coffers rather than by long-term loans which would be repayable after China assumed control of the former colony.

The airport will eventually have capacity to handle 87 million passengers and 9 million tonnes of cargo a year. This is more than double the present passenger traffic at the existing airport and will increase cargo throughput sixfold.

The government had been thinking of opening the airport in April. when the terminal and runway facilities will be complete. However, a railway linking the new airport to the centre of town will not be finished until the end of June.

At a meeting of the cabinet yesterday members bowed to pressure to think again about trying to open the airport with-

Cook feels pinch over human rights

Britain found yesterday that it had fallen uncomfortably between two stools, with its partly robust, partly cautious policy on China.

China attacked Britain in connection with a visit by leading dissident Wei Jingsheng, who met Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett on Monday. Foreign ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said that China had already made diplomatic representations: "No foreign government should make use of Wei Jingsheng to interfere in China's internal affairs."

But Britain has gained few brownie points from human rights activists for arranging the meeting with Mr Fatchett, which was a form of consolation prize. Robin Cook the Foreign Secretary, had said he was too busy to meet Mr Wei until after his return from Peking, in an apparent attempt not to offend China. Mr Wei expressed his unhappiness that "because of business, they want to keep a

distance from me. I think it's a spokesman yesterday expressed "disappointment" at the Chinese complaint, but said that it was

nothing out of the ordinary". Perhaps more than anywhere else except Saudi Arabia, China is where Mr Cook's ethical foreign policy finds itself between a rock and a hard place. China's disregard for human rights is well known. But it is also one of Britain's most intportant trade partners. Britain the leading European investor in Cluina. Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, has just started a 10day tour of China which includes a sales pitch to Chinese investors for Britain as the "gateway to Europe".

Mr Cook flies to Peking for meetings on Monday and Tuesday with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, and with foreign minister Qien Qichen. From Peking, he flies to Hong Kong,

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Sacrificed: students who were pawns in Saddam's game

Iraq surprised and infuriated Jordan last month by executing four Jordanian students accused of small-scale smuggling. The Independent has learnt that President Sadddam Hussein hanged them because he believed Jordan was plotting with a senior Iraqi general to overthrow him. Patrick Cockburn reports exclusive details of the quarrel between the two former allies.

In early December, Jordanians, most of whom sympathised with Iraq in the Gulf war, were shocked to learn President Saddam had executed four Jordanian students in Baghdad. Their crime was to have smuggled car parts worth £530 into Iraq.

Relations between Amman and Baghdad were good and King Hussein had appealed to the Iraqi leader to spare the

Angered by their execution, he ordered the expulsion of Iraqi diplomats. Now the Independent has learned why

the students were executed. Their death had nothing to do with their crime: it was retaliation for what President Saddam believed was Jordanian involvement in a conspiracy against him. It followed interception by Iraqi security of a letter from Jordan to Maj-Gen Talib al-Sadoun, an Iraqi general, giving details of a plot.

Gen Wafiq al-Sammara'i, former head of Iraqi military intelligence now in exile, told the Independent: "Iraqi intelligence intercepted a letter from the Iraqi opposition to Gen al-Sadoun about a month ago. Saddam Hussein thinks the Jordanian government knew about the plot. Therefore he killed the four students to send King

Hussein a message." Gen Sammara'i says Gen Sadoun, who



worked in the headquarters of the ruling Baath party, was executed two weeks ago. There had been 10 other arrests, but he does not know the names of those imprisoned. Gen Sadoun came from a clan in southern Iraq. During the uprising against President Saddam in southern Iraq at the end of the Gulf war in 1991 the clan, which has many members in the army and intelligence service, remained loyal to him.

The Jordanians executed on 8 December were under arrest over smuggling car

parts at a moment when the Iraqi leader wanted to vent his anger against Jordan. Gen Sammara'i says: "Saddam thought King Hussein was behind the plot." A Jordanian government statement read out on television after the students died refers to the failure of Jordan's effort "to dissuade the Iraqi authorities from carrying through their unfair decision to execute four of our citizens on a charge, which, if true, would

not be punishable by more than a fine." The parliament in Amman referred to

the executions as an "inhuman" act in "fla- Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and King Husgrant disregard" for human rights. A Jordanian helicopter flew the remains of Riza Bishara Riz, 32, one of those executed, to Amman. Two of the other Jordanians who died, Saad Yousef Doji, 35, and his brother Salah, 32, were buried in Baghdad, where their families live. Jordan said a fifth Jordanian, held on murder charges in Iraq, was executed the previous week.

President Saddam had reason to be suspicious: Jordan was an ally of Iraq in the for a coup against President Saddam or-

sein remained sympathetic during the Gulf crisis and war. The road from Baghdad across the desert to Amman is Iraq's main life-line. But in 1995 King Hussein gave sanctuary to Hussein Kamel, President Saddam's lieutenant and son-in-law, who fled to Jordan (later returning to Baghdad, where he was murdered).

In 1996 the CIA persuaded King Hussein to allow Amman to be used as the base The way it was: Crowds on the streets of Amman, Jordan, demonstrating their support for Saddam Hussein at the outbreak :: the Gulf war Photograph. Rev 🗀 🗆

ganised by an opposition group and a the US called the Iraqi National The plot was crushed before is the ground: As with Gen Sadan curity is believed to have interest to sages between the plotters in Amin and Baghdad In June the same year the : mass arrests of suspected officers N apparently gave the Iraqi leader it. fidence to send his tanks back it as Kurdistan a few mouths later, vir. eign intelligence services tata had a se sition forces to flee.

With President Saddam accessor to the himself in northern Iraq. Jordan recomthe only centre from which open account his regime could easily communicate Baghdad. There is a continued them. fic across the Iraqi western deven. also be that, during the crisis in the conover Iraq's confrontation with the ... over the right of UN weapons are to operate, Western intelligence were were particularly eager to make the order dissident members of the Iraq

Gen Sadoun would be the tycer whom foreign intelligence would like to cultivate. A Sunsi benefit like most of the Iraqi establishman held senior positions within the and ruling Baath party. Gen Sammuta "He had many contacts in the orrestion tary intelligence and Mukhabarat (2.1.) al security)." Gen Sadoun muse it... known what would happen to him. pected of treachery. But Rieg it also to and his fellow students, making a hour too. ev from smuggling, could not have given they would pay with their lives with a second about which they knew nothing...

US retreats The United States directed a torrent of fierce rhetoric towards Iraq vesterday into a war of words

fierce rhetoric towards Iraq yesterday following Baghdad's refusal to allow the new UN inspection team to visit suspected weapons facilities. But much of the fight seemed to have gone out of Washington's position, with the White House and the Pentagon saying that diplomacy was the preferred solution.

This message was also conveyed by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. who said in a scheduled foreign policy address that "unconditional access" for UN inspection teams "has to be the [Security Council's | bottom line". While insisting that the US would continue to be "vigilant and determined" and would "not rule out any options", she also blamed the US

Congress for effectively undermining the US position by its continued refusal to pay back dues owed to the United Nations.

"The failure to pay UN debts undermined our leverage just as Saddam Hussein was challenging the authority of the Security Council," she said. Her remarks amounted to an acknowledgement by

obtaining security council agreement to military action against Iraq so long as the US had not settled with the UN.

The UN Security Council was due to meet yesterday to consider Iraq's objections to the predominantly US and British composition of the new weapons team and its decision to bar access to selected sites. Washington that there was little chance of On Monday, President Clinton said he ex-

pected the UN Security Council as the an "strong and appropriate action" it is a second vented the team from doing its soil the Defense Secretary William Cohen and the terday: "I think the US will continue at part sue diplomatic initiatives to the points ... we exhaust all reasonable initiate e. ... have not reached that point yet.

- Mary Dejevsky, Washington

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Barclay brothers to launch French weekly

French daughter, L'Europeen, this spring.

The new magazine, also a weekly, will be the first attempt to sell a Europe-oriented publication to French readers. If successful, L'Europeen could be the forerunner of German, Spanish and Italian-language dones of the same idea.

Its parents are, politically speaking, an odd couple: 65 per cent will be owned by the rightwing, anti-European Union

ropean will give birth to a Brothers, who own The European; 35 per cent will be owned by the left-of-centre, stoutly pro-European French newspaper. Le Monde. The editor will be a celebrated French television iournalist. Christine Ockrent. Belgian-born and also known for her strongly pro-EU views. Although the two publications will share some resources, Ms Ockrent was at pains to point out yesterday that they would have

separate editorial policies. The British version of The

Maxwell in May 1985, has al-new French paper partially takes ways taken a fiercely Eurosceptical approach. So has the Edinburgh-based morning newspaper, The Scotsman, since other European publications. its purchase by the Barclay Brothers and the installation of the former Sunday Times editor, Andrew Neill, as the editorial supremo of the group.

Ms Ockrent said that her own newspaper would take a different view but would not slavishly support the institutional European line. Unlike its British

the form of a review, with extensive translation, of articles which have already appeared in

The magazine will have a minimal staff of 30, plus freelances. It has set a break-even circulation target of 80,000, which seems modest enough but may be larger than the real circulation of its chronically unsuccessful British progenitor.

The launch of a French version of The European is the ad-

ject as originally conceived by Mr Maxwell. He wanted to create a newspaper - ultimately a daily - that would be bought by all nationalities in Europe, Perversely, however, it always peered at Europe through dis-

tinctly British spectacles. The creation of L'Europeen is a switch of policy towards the creation of a stable of newspapers which will examine European themes and issues, but will remain anchored in national markets and written in the ma-

The weekly newspaper The Eu-British financiers, the Barclay European, launched by Robert sister, the dummy version of the failure of the prothe nationalistic, anti-federalist view of Europe propagated by Barclay brothers' publications. Andrew Neil, editor in chief of The European and The Scotsman, has appointed his friend, and former Tory MP Gerry Malone as associate editor of The European. Mr Malone recently failed to win the seat of Winchester after succeeding in

getting the general election result overturned in the courts. — John Lichfield, Paris

EU team ready to leave for Algeria

was finalising plans for an immediate mission to Algeria to discuss the slaughter in the country, amid reports that as died in the latest massacres close to the capital, Algiers, at

After chairing a meeting of senior officials from the 15 EU states, Jeremy Greenstock, political director of the Foreign Office, said the delegation would "see what belp" Europe could offer. It would follow the "troika" formula, with representatives from Luxembourg, Britain and Austria, respectively the past, present and next holders of the EU presidency. The team was "ready to go tomorrow," once it had permission from the Algerian authorities. The aim is to deliver a report to foreign ministers when they meet in Brussels on 26 January.

But though it looks certain to go ahead, the visit will be extremely delicate. "Fact-finding" is its real purpose - but no one can say as much so as not

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The European Union last night to infuriate the Algerian regime, for whom the very use of the term casts doubt on its insistence that the endless killing is anything less than 100 many as 400 people may have per cent the work of Islamic fundamentalist rebels.

In public at least, Algeria maintains the greatest service the EU could render would be to clamp down on the exile groups in Europe. These, it says, provide the financial and logistical support that enables the rebels to continue a conflict which has taken an estimated 75,000 or more lives since 1992.

In the latest carnage, at the village of Sidi Hamed south of Algiers, the government claims 103 people were murdered and 70 wounded.

Reports in the normally tightly controlled local press suggest the death-toll was more than 400. This would make it the bloodiest single massacre of the war, bringing to 1,700 the total of victims since the Islamic holy month of Ramadan began on 30 December.

- Rupert Cornwell



It took a Mexican police chief The economic ructions in Asia to confirm what everybody produced their most violent inknew Police turned a blind cident yet when an armed man ve in the state of Chianas last took a hostage in the Tokyo month while gunmen supporting President Ernesto Zedillo's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) massacred

45 Indian peasants. In a new blow to Mr Zedillo and the party, Chiapas police commander Felipe Vazquez was charged with helping arm the gunmen with automatic rifles for the attack on sympathisers of the anti-government Zapatista guerrilla group, most of them women and children. He said he had been following

orders from unnamed superiors. Mr Zedillo also came under heavy criticism yesterday after Chiapas state police opened fire on townspeople protesting against the pre-Christmas massacre. A woman was killed in the incident in the town of

Mr Zedillo has already dismissed his Interior Minister and the governor of Chiapas, both from the PRI, over the pre-Christmas massacre and their failure to bring peace to the

poverty-stricken state. A report by Mexico's Human Rights Commission said police must have easily heard nine hours of shooting from the hamlet of Acteal on 22 December but turned a blind eye. Police officers helped them hide their weapons, the report said. — Phil Davison,

Stock Exchange (TSE) because he was upset with the government's management of the economy and the penetration

into Japan of foreign companies. Tetsuo Itagaki, a former member of an extreme rightwing organisation, gave himself up to police yesterday evening after a five-hour stand off on the executive floor of the stock exchange building in central Tokyo, At 1pm, according to police sources quoted by Japanese television, he had entered the office of Masahiro Abe, an official of the Finance Ministry, who oversees the running of the exchange, and taken him hostage

with a firearm. He asked to see the finance minister, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, demanded that stock trading be suspended, and expressed anger at the government's handling of the economy which is perilously close to recession, dragged down by the currency crisis in south-east Asia and Korea.

All afternoon, the streets around the TSE were sealed off and 400 riot police swarmed around the high-rise building's entrances. Hundreds of cameramen and reporters congregated and television helicopters buzzed in the sky but trading on the lower floors went on, and the exchange actually closed up 91.50 points.

A few thousand people

marched through Paris yesterday to demand better benefits for the unemployed. There were equally poor turn-outs in other French cities, a setback for a movement which has shaken the French government in recent weeks. John Lichfield

They had captured the sympathy of the French public and the attention of the media. They had provoked nasty cracks in the French centre-left government.

joined the marchers.

The leaders of the month-old protest movement of the unemployed had to prove yesterof the French jobless them-

On the whole they failed. Another attempt will be made on Saturday but the momentum may have been lost by then. In Paris, the police counted 4,500 demonstrators and this, for once, seemed a generous figure. The Communist trade-union federation, the CGL counted 10,000 but this was pure pro-

There were some genuinely unemployed people in the Paris march, which passed, ironically, through some of the wealthiest parts of the capital. But the general impression was of a 1968 veterans' association reunion, a gathering of the standard tribes of the French activist

greens. Demonstrations called in other French cities were equally unconvincing: only 200 in St Etienne, a centre of high unemployment; only 500 in Toulouse.

There was a bigger crowd of 6,000 in Marseilles but, given the 3,000,000 unemployed people in France, the figures were not impressive.

The protesters were calling, amongst other things, for an immediate increase in the minimum social payments of around £200 a month made to the young or long-term unem-

Last week the Socialist Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, set up a £100m fund for people in acute difficulties but then sent the police to break up a score of sit-ins in dole offices around

Yesterday's demonstrations were meant to take the protests on to a new phase.

Richard Dethyre, leader of one of the three main unemployed pressure groups involved, put on a brave face.

"We are seeing the start of something important, the unemployed standing up, for the first time, to insist that their dignity must be respected too."

But others were clearly disappointed by the turn-out. An unemployed waiter, Hamo Kaci, 35, living on £55 a week in minimum social benefits, said: "The problem is it's difficult to motivate the unemployed to come to a march like this. Either they'd rather use the time to look for a job or they've already sunk - and I know the the feeling myself - into a kind



Light on the matter: A full moon rising behind a crumpled hydro-tower, south-east of Montreal, damaged by the weight of last week's ice storms; the severe weather caused a power crisis in eastern Canada Photograph: CP Photo

Comfort for Jospin as crowds fail to

turn up at Paris unemployed protest

left: the hard-line Communists, — Richard Lloyd Parry, Tokyo Latin America Correspondent day that they had, for the first the anarchists, the gays, and the Assassin to explain alleged links with Winnie Mandela

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela may have thought her grilling by the Truth and Reconcilization

Commission was over. But as Mary Braid reports any sense of relief was premature.

A month ago, Mrs Mandela denied taking part in a string of murders, tortures and assaults carried out by her notorious bodyguards the Mandela United Football Club in the late

at the sensational nine-day public hearing is thought to have contributed to Mrs Mandela's failure to become ANC deputy president in subsequent party

Now the TRC, set up to exapartheid years, has called 18 lice spy. former members of the apartheid-era security forces including Eugene de Kock, the most notorious state assassin, now serving 212 years at a maximum-security prison - to explain publicly their links with Mrs Mandela.

The latest hearings are expected to take place place at the But the evidence presented commission says it wants to in-

vestigate the extent of police harassment and surveillance of Mrs Mandela but police witnesses may shed light on counter allegations made at the original TRC hearings: that Mrs Mandela was not, in fact, pose the atrocities of the a security police victim but a po-

Mrs Mandela is under no obligation to attend the new hearing but she is invited and her lawyers will be permitted to cross-examine witnesses.

Along with de Kock, whose murderous activities earned him the nickname Prime Evil, the witness list includes a judge, crime squad officers and two seend of the month. Officially the cret agents, who will give their

members were named by witnesses in the original hearings. The TRC is reported to be seeking further information about the death of Themba Mahote, an associate of Mrs Mandela and, according to one witness last month, also her former lover. Mr Mabote, who it is also claimed was a police spy, was killed by the security forces. De Kock, former commander of the secret police unit, Vlakplaas,

about Mr Mabote's death. Other officers will be quizzed about the murder of Dr Abu-Baker Asvat and the disappearance of Lolo Sono, a leadership of the United De-Soweto youth. Mrs Mandela has

is expected to be questioned

death of both. At last month's hearings,

two former secret policemen told the commission that British and US agents secretly helped the apartheid regime spread rumours that Mrs Mandela was a child killer, an alcoholic and drug user.

However, in a blistering attack on Mrs Mandela, another witness, Azhar Cachalia - a leading light in the battle against apartheid - said that in the late 1980s many suspected Mrs Mandela was a police in-

Mr Cachalia was part of the mocratic Front which publicly a police spy.

Some of the security force been accused of ordering the distanced itself from Mrs Mandela in 1989. He said everyone seemed aware that there were guerrillas and arms in Mrs Mandela's home and yet the police never raided it.

> Others have speculated that the police were simply giving Mrs Mandela enough rope to hang herself and thus discredit her jailed husband.

> Some of the football club members were certainly working for the police. Last month. police commissioner George Fivaz said that Jerry Richardson, former coach of the soccer club - now serving life for the murder of teenage activist Stompie Seipei Moeketsi - was

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opening strain of Vaughan Williams's In the Fen Country steals across the auditorium, tuning us in to the play's location. Throughout Like a Dancer, playwright Barbara Hartridge uses hymns, popular songs and piano tunes to punctuate her 1940s East Anglian tale, but this is no musical. Nor is it some peaceful, rural idyll.

Martha is eking out an existence in a tithe cottage with her rough

teenage son and daughter and "the little 'uns". She's desperate to keep their heads above the poverty line but one morning she unpacks a suitcase filled with hand-me-down clothes and discovers a flapperstyle Twenties dress. More music floats in as she clasps it to her body and dreams of her dancing days long gone, worlds away from the drab domesticity that surrounds her. Yet, as she snaps guiltily out of her reverie, we realise that her past not only

betokens pleasure, but also secret Despite all this, the family seem to be muddling along happily until the day when Bob throws his job away in a fit of pride, thus forcing

farm-labourer husband Bob, a them to up sticks. The first 20 minutes or so are oddly engrossing as Hartridge tenderly paints in the details of her picture of harsh domestic life but, unfortunately, she and her director John Adams cannot handle her own plot.

Over-ripe melodrama swoops in as figures from the past haunt the stage, threatening to expose Martha's dark secret. We learn of a child, born out of wedlock, who has been brought up by an aunt, but the thriller-like structure over-balances everything. Crowded with incident. it's full of activity but lacks dramatic action. The arc of the play sags with unnecessary scenes and the plot revelations are clumsy. Even when the car is let out of the bag, nothing

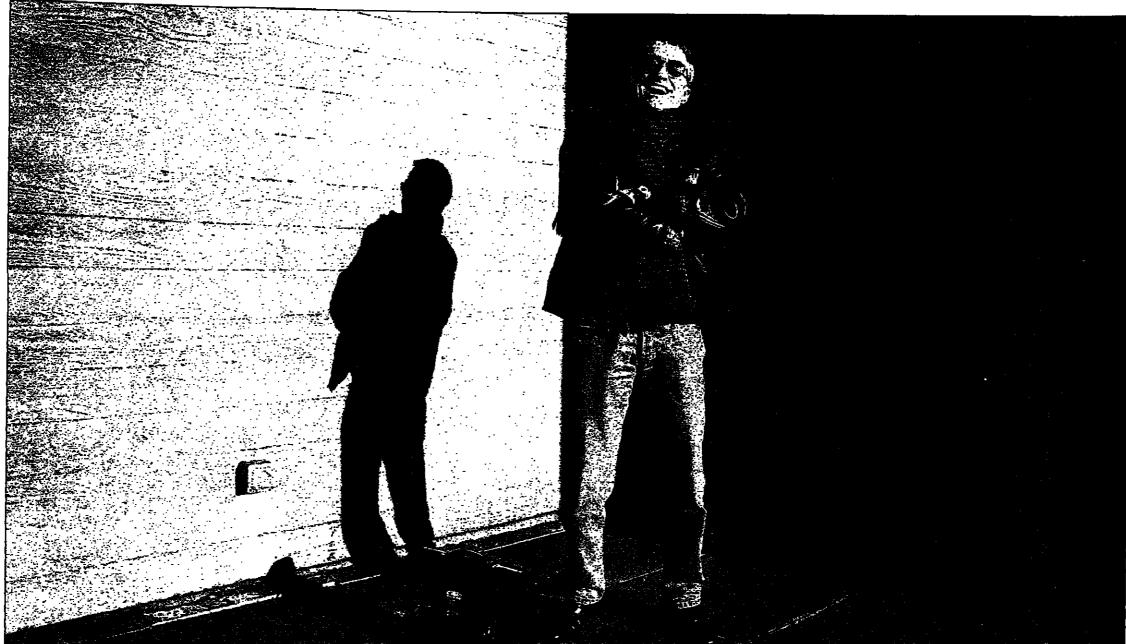
is resolved, which leaves us with a course, all the more impressive concontinuing soap opera. Hence, despite an attempt at a climactic finish, the play stops abruptly rather

The unforced acting in the principal roles, however, is excellent, Mark Wing-Davey brings weight and a threatening presence to the inarticulate husband and Adams coaxes excellent, truthful performances from Scott Hickman and Philippa Stanton as the children who, tossed between the demands of a violent father and guilt-ridden mother, grow up fast from carefree youth to fearful adolescence. In the pivotal role of Martha, Amelda Brown bravely refuses to sentimentalise her character and steers a sure and effective

sidering the play's lurching tone.

In the premiere of Caryl Churchill's Fen. Brown once gave a memorable performance as another struggling mother, but it's not just that coincidence which lends this production a sense of dejà vu. It's as if the atmosphere of Fen has been crossed with the hidden-child plot of Churchill's Top Girls. Sadly, Like a Dancer lacks the skill and dramatic imagination of either. Sincerity, effective dialogue and good acting are not enough to keep a play affoat. To 1 February, New End Theatre, Hampstead, London NW3. Booking:

David Benedict



The day he stood still? That'll be the day. Kevin Elyot limbers up for the National Theatre premiere of his latest (but not his

National debut? Time to put the record, er, straight

Call him gay, call him a writer, but whatever you do, never call Kevin Elyot a gay playwright. Oh, and while you're at it, don't call 'My Night With Reg' his first play either.

In addition to bagging both the Olivier and the Evening Standard awards for Best Comedy, Kevin Elyot's My Night With Reg won him the 1994 Critics' Circle Award for Most Promising Newcomer. With his new play The Day I Stood Still beginning ews tomorrow at the National Theatre, Elyot is hardly about to start carping, but it must have rankled. "Most Promising Newcomer"? Twelve years earlier, he had waltzed off with the Samuel Beckett Award for his debut play, Coming Clean, at the Bush theatre. In 1990, his TV drama Killing Time had nabbed the Writers'

night) job, however. Since leav-

ing Bristol University drama de-

partment in 1973, Elyot has

maintained a steady career as

an actor, tackling everything

from West End roles to Edward

Bond's Stone, one of the earli-

est plays commissioned by the

now-defunct Gay Sweatshop.

Indeed, calmly nibbling a cake

in the National Theatre café, he

points out that, while he hasn't

acted for five years, he still

"If something came along,

Mind you, the thought of a

hasn't entirely given up on it.

I might consider it," he opines,

mock-loftily. "A nice cameo

stage role makes him shudder.

Ouite apart from the strain of

rehearsals and eight shows a

on camera."

I looked hideous." Guild Award. And, in 1992, he had adapted Ostrovsky's Artists and Admirers for Phyllida Lloyd at the RSC. None of these successes spelt an end to his day (and

It was not a role he relished. Guarded and softly spoken. he has never regarded himself as a clubbable type, although

week, having now sat in the saddle, he's not anxious to relin-

"As a writer, in the theatre at least, you get treated better. I do think that being an actor can be slightly degrading. You have to be rather craven. I hate all that. As a writer, you have more control, you're in charge of the goods."

Elyot has been hedging his bets since his days at King Edward's School in Birmingham. He studied piano to grade 8, was a choirboy for years and, thanks to an enlightened teacher, was very involved in drama and wrote all manner of things. But acting was his major interest.

"My Desdemona..." he breathes. "You could've heard a pin drop when I sang the 'Willow Song'. Actually, even then I had very dark eyebrows and I wore a long, blonde wig.

To this day he is amazed that, at a school where academic accomplishment or sporting prowess were the criteria of excellence, his dramatic endeavours alone elevated him to the status of prefect.

merely being a sixth-former granted him entrée to something called the Cartland Club ("as in Barbara," he quips), a room all set about with leather armchairs, which he barely visited. The prefects, too, had their own room but he never went in. It set a pattern for the rest of his life. As a writer, he sees himself as out on a limb.

"I'm very happy about it. I'm not even part of any particular generation. I'm 46 and obviously not one of the up-andcoming young Turks. I'm certainly not like Stoppard and megastars for decades, so I really feel outside all that and very liberated by it. I can plough my

When Reg arrived in the West End, one or two commentators pigeon-holed it as part of the wave of gay plays. Elyot is uncomfortable with that too, which might lead one to accuse him of clinging to Groucho Marx's line, "I don't want to belong to any club that will accept me as a member." But he is not alone. Most gay writers dislike being marginalised. "Of course I am a writer and I am gay, but that kind of characterisation is a way of belittling the writing. You're

kind of brushed aside, so that

A merry dance, full of incident but little action

the discussion can then move faintly ludicrous about it," he cently I found I'm not being called a gay writer and I quite like that, not because I have any problem with being gay, but be-

on to 'serious' writing. But re- muses drolly, "That men have a penis that they might not have any control over ...

Unexpectedly, the loudest criticism came from tetchier sec-

BY DAVID **BENEDICT**

his generation, who have been - cause I just want to be judged - tions of the gay press, who ha-

"Straight writers" in similarly exclusive terms, it might be different. But. either way. Elyot sees it as a dead end.

"I think I've got almost nothing in common with other gay writers other than orientation. Jonathan Harvey, for example, is of a different generation and pursues his own ideas - no better, no worse, just different."

A play about secrets and lies, Reg wrought considerable laughter and pain from Elvot's trademark tragi-comic writing about love and particularly sex. "Sex is great, but I suppose I always think there's something

If people were to categorise supposed "Aids play" that demoted the disease to the background. "It's not 'about Aids'. I can't do that sort of writing." He tried it once. Beneath the spectre of the notorious Clause 28, he wrote Consent for Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke. It was a notably dangerous exercise, given that the lo-year-old actors were technically underage, but he was unhappy writ-

> tality whose title alludes to Eric Robmer's cinematic conversation piece. Ma Nuit chez Mande. The Day I Stood Still is an

ing an issue play in workshop.

The result was certainly far re-

moved from Reg, an elegant

comedy of manners and mor-

equally finely crafted chamber piece, held together by a structure playing games with time. Past and present are held up for inspection as Horace, the central character, faces up to a hidden passion. Not a million miles away from the central dilemma of Reg. it's a subject that fascinates Elyot. "You could make the mistake of thinking my stuff is autobiographical. It is a bit, but not totally. I've never written about the first person I fell in love with. In fact, I had lunch with him a couple of months ago. He's happily married with children, a terribly nice man. Do you know met up, he'd just been to make a donation to a sperm bank."

Nevertheless, Elyot constantly returns to the lasting quality of early experiences. There are lots of things 1 thought when I was a teenager and, at the time, I remember thinking, 'When I'm older, they'll change.' Thirty years on, you realise you're on exactly the same track. Of course your opinions change, but the gut thing lasts, the pattern is set. In The Day I Stood Still, tiny trivial events later assume massive importance. That's part of the same thing." Although his writing has

advanced pretty smoothly, there have been disappointments. He was very unhappy with the finished version of his BBC adaptation of Wilkie Collins's The Moonstone, the victim of endless budget cuts which continued right through production; his relationship with the producers and director fell apart. "I had cut scenes fairly fast but they ended up being given an unnecessary beginning and end. A rather paranoid, strange book became a lumbering period piece," he remarks, evenly.

An even greater disappointment was the shelving of second) play Photograph: kalpesh Lathigra

beginning to happen and it was such an audacious, celebrated He believes it was a failure of nerve on the part of the BBC. "Naively, I'm still quite optimistic that, somewhere, sometime, it might still happen." Meanwhile, he's busy adapting Maupassant's Bel-Ami for film and about to nip off to Australia Reg (already seen as far afield The House of Bernarda Duck-

his adaptation of Alan Holling-

hurst's The Swimming Pool

Library. "Regardless of the

quality of my adaptation, the

project was hot to trot. It was

1994, Alan was up for the Book-

er with The Folding Star, Reg was

Not that he'll be interfering. "You can't nanny it along, you he threatens. "Though you've have to let them discover it for themselves." That's the actor mark of his plays is his rare conallowing the actors to finish the Booking: 0171-928 2252

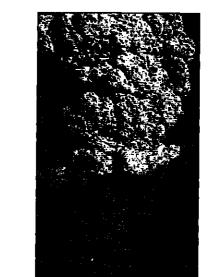
thoughts. Not only is that more satisfying to act, it releases an audience's imagination, pulls them closer to the play's beart. No prizes, then, for guessing that he venerates Chekhov. He even went as far as writing a deeply private homage to Three Sisters, beguilingly entitled Paint Your Troika.

"It was a one-off performance and I was the only person allowed to watch it," he hastens to add. "The late Peter Whitman was Olga, whose character was visited by the ghosts of Bette Davies and Carol Channing. There was ng to be a fo as Japan, Mexico and Slovenia). worth, but somehow I never got round to that... but I might. got to be in it to see it."

'The Day I Stood Still' previews talking. The distinguishing at the Cottesloe, RNT, South Bank, London SE1, from tofidence in leaving things unsaid, morrow, and opens on 22 Jan.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Sofa so good: Richard Linton and Kenneth MacDonald in 'Reg', left; the cast of 'Day', right

Sasha Gusov

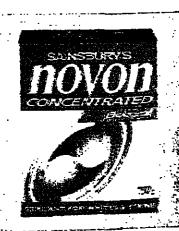
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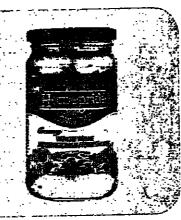
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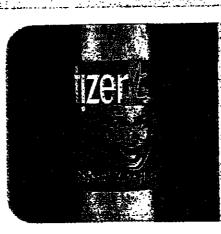


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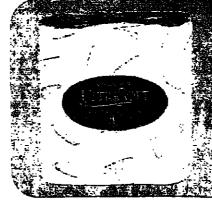
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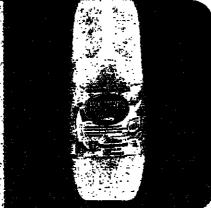


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Alien resurrection - the flares that never died



Oh my gawd - it's the Seventies. They've remembered the decade that fashion forgot, writes Tamsin Blanchard. Photographs by James Cant.

If, seen from here, the Seventies were your worst sartorial nightmare, then prepare to confront it all over again. This week, Boogie Nights, the epic movie about the porn industry of Seventies West Coast America, starring Mark Wahlberg as Dirk Diggler in brown Crimplene flares, opens at a cinema near you.

And that's not all. In early February, Sigourney Weaver takes to the big screen in The Ice Storm, a more cerebral story set on America's East Coast in the earlier half of the decade, 1973 to be precise. Before you know it, you'll be singing "Boogie Nights" and get-ting on down to your local Oxfam store in search of clothing horrors - halter necks, boob tubes and gold Lurex galore; or, even worse, you'll be dragging out those relics of your youth that you couldn't quite bare to part with. Horrors of the haunted wardrobe! "They keep saying the Seventies are com-

ing back," says Sigourney, whose movie clothes are more Abigail's Party than disco fever. "They are not coming back. They could not come back. They would not be allowed in." This a woman who knows the meaning of horror and fear. Clearly, Alien Resurrection was a picnic by comparison.

Sigourney may not be able to stomach men in big collars and hideously Seventies brown, rust, orange and gold. They don't do it for most people. But for those who didn't live through the decade that style forgot, the Seventies looks remarkably, well, stylish. Of course, many of the decade's fashions were downright ugly, but for young fashion folk, that is the attraction. Huge, rounded collars, wide, spoony-shaped shoes, chunky platforms, colossal flares, pearly green eyeshadow, and jarring colour clashes: just let us get at 'em!

Of course, films such as Boogie Nights are a godsend to shops specialising in retro clothing. The Pop Boutique has clothes from the Fifties to the Seventies: it is even doing good business in vintage tracksuit tops. A certain Fila tracksuit top like the one worn by Björn Borg seils for between £70 and £80, bobbles and all. Nylon shirts and polyester flares are also hot property, not to mention a tad moist and sweaty, too. Prices start at £14.50 for super fly-collared shirts and £16.50 for the sort of pants that some of us hoped might never see the light of day again. A lot of Pop Boutique's customers are after clothes for one-off Seventies nights. Others are committed to the decade full time.

London's clubland has also discovered that the Seventies are big business. The names of the "nights" say it all: Carwash, Voulez Vous, Starsky and Hutch, Groove Train and Good Times are just a few hot spots where a convincingly flyaway outfit is a free ticket to trip the light fantastic.

At the Electric Ballroom in London's Camden Town on Saturday nights, Saturday Night Fever offers free entry to anyone who makes an effort to dress up like John Travolta, or somebody from Abigail's Party. The Independent's stylist, Sophia Neophitou, took a suitcase of choice pieces from the decade to add a touch of fashion class to the retro clubbers. They all loved the dressing-up box, whose contents ranged from flared jeans to a silk, draped evening dress by Bill Gibb, a collector's item and a snip at £175 from Steinberg and Tolkein on London's King's Road. Mark Steinberg has a keen interest in both film and fashion. Boogie Nights will undoubtedly increase demand for vintage Seventies clothing. although Steinberg attributes the revival to last year's movie, LA Confidential, the jewellery

for which all came from the London shop. "The Seventies has never really been out of fashion," he says. And judging by the designers - including John Galliano and New Yorker Anna Sui - who have been scouting around shops such as the Pop Boutique for inspiration, the look is here to stay.







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Juice 42 lline
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hotographer's assistant: Styling: Sophia Neophitou ityling assistant: Warren

hot on location at Saturday light Fever, every Saturday at he Electric Ballroom, 184 den High Street, London

NWI, £7, £5 to members; free if you dress in Seventies outfits, 10.30pm-3am (0171-485 9006)

Clockwise from main picture: Laura wears jacket and culottes suit, £34, shiny poloneck top, £12, beige boots, £39, all from Blackout II, 51 Endell Street, London WC2 (017) 240 5006)

Dawn wears zip-front dress, £375, by Pucci, from Steinberg and Tolkien. 193 King's Road. SW3 (0171-376 3660)



Asaki wears top, £35, from Cenci, 31 Monmouth Street, London WC2 (0171-836 1400): flared jeans, £35, from Pop Boutique, 6 Monmouth Street. London WC2; Dr Martens shoes, model's own

Laura wears gold Spandex

trousers, 20p, from The Cat Shelter open-day jumble sale. Sheffield: scarf top, £220, by Pucci, from Steinberg and Tolkien, as before

Donna wears pink silk evening dress. £175. by Bill Gibb, from Steinberg and Tolkien, as

<u></u>

before; cream shoes, £24, from Blackout II, as before

Donna wears pink sequin boob tube, £10, pink sequin necklace. £5. pink sequined bag, £10, all from Cornucopia, 12 Upper Tachbrook Street, London SW1 (0171-828 5752)



26 OLD BOND STREET, LONDON W1 31 SLOANE STREET, LONDON SW1

Where Robert De Niro rubs shoulders with Pavarotti and Del Boy

There's fame present, past and wannabe. And then there are those who pretend. Serena Mackesy spent a night in the strange twilight world of lookalikes.

The pavement outside Stringfellow's night-club often heaves with gawping News of the World readers; but this crowd looked as though they'd been hand-picked for slackness of jaw, duliness of skin. And as the limos pulled up, they rustled and grunted: "Ooh, ooh. It's Lily Savage. Ooh! Men Be-having Badly! Oozat? Diana Ross or Gloria Gaynor?"

They couldn't have been much more excited if it had been the real thing. Which just goes to show that lookaliking. a job remit somewhere below drag-queening and above karaoke on the glamour scale. really works. Stringy's was playing host to the Celebrity Lookalikes New Year Ball, organised by Celebrity Lookalikes, an agency with 200 dressers-up on its list. A few hundred bookers, backs, B-listers and confused-looking Stringy's regulars were piling in through those sacred doors to have their hands pumped by Jaws from the James Bond series (one Gary Tiplady, complete with metal teeth) - an experience somewhat akin to getting caught between two sides of gammon - and, appropriately enough, drink ersatz champagne with the

My eye lighted on Chris Quinten, the former Brian Tilsley of Coronation Street. He looked frightfully busy. I turned to my companion. "Who on earth would want to hire a Chris Quinten lookalike?" He looked closely, did a double-take. "No, that's the real Chris Quinten." The boy's come a long way from Weatherfield.

Descending the stairs to the basement dance floor were Patsy and Edina from Ab Fab. Patsy swigged from an empty champagne bottle, and they played their roles in grating Essex accents. "Ooh, darling, party." "Ooh yes, darling. Look! Cliff Richard! Cliff! Hello, darling!" Cliff, slight and toothy, chatted to the Duchess of York and the late, great Princess of Wales. Nicky Lillie, one of the more convincing Dianas on the circuit, has been suffering a bit of a lull of late; most enquiries since September have been from American chat shows. The agency, though, expects Diana to take on the iconic status of Elvis or Marilyn Monroe once the furore has died down, and she may have a healthy second career opening supermarkets.

At the bar, Robert De Niro fought Robert Mitchum and Clint Eastwood for the atten-















Double vision: from top, Rodney and Del Boy, Pavarotti, Patsy and Edina, Lily Savage, Evans and Branson, Tina Turner, Laurel and Hardy jason Bye

tion of the staff. A cross-looking black guy with dreadlocks turned to his friend. "You know what she said to me? She said, "You look like someone. Who are you then?" "Bloody cheek," his friend snorted indignantly.

I knew how he felt. Earlier, someone had pointed at me and shrieked Barbra Streisand!" One of my mates was nursing his ego in a corner after being accused of being Mr Bean.

Holding my drinks aloft and catching the slipstream of a girl in a tutu, I bumped tummies with Pavarotti. He rolled his eyes. "I feel more like a Ford Escort than a Maestro." he said. In real life he is Colin Miller, a florist from Burton-on-Trent. He has gone to Llangollen with The Big Breakfast, and done two hours' work for a Swiss TV company that garnered him £1,200.

"People want to touch you and have their photo taken with you. In Llangollen this guy from new Zealand said he'd waited for years to meet Pavarotti, but now he'd met me, he didn't mind." The two Pammy Andersons, meanwhile, marching around in identical Barb Wire suits, nipples akimbo, simply looked like normal Stringy's punters.

Rodney and Del Boy grabbed a Pammy and posed for a picture, Rodney pointing his headlight specs down her cleavage. "What's it like being a lookalike, then?" I asked Del Boy. "Lovely jubbly," he "How much money can

you make from this game?" 'Woooer." He tapped the side of his nose. "Can't say. No income tax, no VAT, know what I mean?"

At which point, the crowd surged forward to watch Hot Spice, "the UK's top Spice Girls tribute band". We sat on a step to watch on a screen, and a tutu'd waitress approached. "Excuse me, can you not sit on the stairs. please?" "Where can we sit, then?" "I can get you a table if you like." "Oh, OK." "You'll have to buy champagne," she said firmly. Heading for the exit, we passed Tom Cruise and his lovely wife, who stood, in shocking breach of protocol, with their backs to Princess Madge. A man was questioning them. "There's a lot of speculation," he said, "that you are gay and you are a lesbian." "I'll have to have a few beers before I answer that," said Tom. Nicole wrinkled her lovely little nose. "No comment," she said frostily.

Two girls looked sourly at the screen as the Spicies slapped bits of themselves to "Who-who-who-who do you think you are?" "Well," said one, eyeing Ginger's vpl, "You can tell it's not them. Geri would never wear knickers under her catsuit."



The Sultan of psycho is not afraid

Faye Sultan works with terrifying people and leads an amazing life. Ann Treneman met her, read her book and has her telephone number. And so does Ben, but he mustn't tell Brenda.

Faye Sultan looks an entirely orjacket, black trousers, fortyish, long hair, American accent, easy laugh, sensible shoes. She is a forensic psychologist and makes the predictable joke when I suggest she sit on the couch. I point to the tape recorder. "Of course I don't mind. I'm a shrink. We get taped all the time!" By the time the tape is turned off any idea that Faye Sultan and the word "ordinary" should ever appear in the same sentence again have been removed. For ever.

For starters she knows many of the sickest murderers in America and these are not passing acquaintances. It may be these people - most would say monsters - tick but surely this

number? This becomes even more puzzling when she tells me that having an unlisted number is her one attempt at privacy. What is the point of an unlisted number if the likes of Horace Benjamin Beech, a schizophrenic double murderer whose alternative personality is named Brenda, can ring her mother and is convinced that at any time? Faye Sultan is caredinary person. Black and white ful to explain the rules to me: "Ben is allowed to call my want to talk to her. She is really not very nice." No. evidently not. After all she killed two elderly women in North Carolina. Not the kind of person

does not need to extend to such

"You know I've never been in danger because of any of those people." says Faye rather patiently. "The danger does not come from the defendants. It is from the general public." During a controversial trial her office can gets death threats. When she speaks out against the death penalty there are more. She says that this speaks volher job to find out what makes umes to her: "This says to me that we live in a terribly, terribly, terribly violent culture."

you want to have a chat with.

Actually she may have added things as giving them her phone a few more "terriblys" in there and soon I know why. As a child growing up in New York and Long Island she was beaten regularly and blamed for just about everything by her mother and step-father. She escaped, via the kindness of strangers and teachers, to university at the age of 16. She is not in contact with genes, it is in our homes. Nor is murder only something that kills too, though Faye Sultan does her best to stop it doing so.

I ask if people call her a wishy-washy liberal and she laughs. "How about bleedingheart candy ass? That is the most common phrase. People say to me, how can you make excuses. I say this isn't about excuses, my job is to explain. My job is to present to junes those factors which lead this individual down this path. Besides the defendant I am the most unpopular person in

whom? The attorneys. Sometimes I think you'd have to come from a pretty terrible background to think it was an OK way to spend a day." It occurs to me that she

might be right and then she erupts again. "But it is very important that they hear the truth about how this person became this monster. He wasn't hatched. He was cultivated. We come and I go, I come and I go. only the luck of the draw sepa- don't want to hear about how If I ask him how he is, he says rates her from the defendants we did the grooming. Often I don't know. Isn't that sad? He she visits in prison. Monsters are when I am testifying I am house but Brenda is not. I don't made, not born. Evil is not in our watching jurors cry. They don't want to hear it. I didn't either. But we are building prisons as criminals indulge in. The state quickly as we can and at some Sultan knew that another perpoint we need to figure out how

we breed violence." Faye Sultan wrote a book about this called The Making of a Monster. No one wanted to publish it. Then her co-writer had an idea. Why not put the same ideas into a thriller? And so they did: it is called Over the Line and the heroine is suspiciously like Faye Sultan. It all has the distinct air of a "made for TV" movie. But Faye herself is more interesting than that the courtroom. It can be very un- because she knows more than pleasant. I get yelled at and her fictional heroine with the screamed at and spit on. By terrific cheekbones and worry- by Fourth Estate at £9.99.

ing nightmares will ever know. She has seen a man die in the gas chamber. She has interviewed a "sane" man who had to be chained to the wall so he wouldn't hurt her. She has met Benjamin and Brenda and many many more.

A lot of the time, she says. Benjamin sits with his back to her. "He says things like: I doesn't know." Then one day Ben turned and looked at an umbrella and said: "What a lovely dress that is," and Faye sonality had entered the room. I look confused and she explains: "The reality is that part of my job is to sit with someone until they are ready to connect -and that can take hundreds of hours - and part of Mr Beech connecting was that he let us meet this woman who had committed all these murders and she apparently thought the umbrella was a very nice dress." See what I mean? Extraordinary.

'Over the Line' by Faye Sultan and Teresa Kennedy is published E Park and

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THE INDEPENDENT

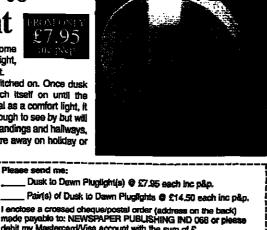
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Now that the first fine layer of dust is forming on the fat file on my desk labelled "DIVORCE", a little normality is beginning to return to our weekends: Bunny and I can spend a morning pootling between chicken house and kitchen. Buster can cycle round the yard for hours, singing tunelessly, with a demented boxer dog bouncing under his wheels. I can take all of Saturday morning to make two loaves of bread, drink coffee and flick through the Next catalogue. And there are other kinds of normality, too, new little homely rituals to do with VNC: lying in bed and listening to The Smiths (no, really, it's nice), watching The Simpsons on famille on Fridays. dancing round the kitchen to disco hits of the Seventies (Bunny and Buster are now word perfect on "Dee Eye,

a new groove of domestic ordinariness, I can see that another upheaval is inevitable, because this new life deserves more than just a kind of improvised camping out in the ruins of the old.

We are going to have to move. When Beloved first went, I thought I could scrape him off the surface of this house like steamed lining-paper off a bathroom wall. I used his desktop to make a tree house for the kids, put the wedding photos behind the spare room wardrobe and painted he would have loathed (bright orange with distressed gold window frames. sidered, too. We have made just one got the T-shirt, the pop-up book, the



Diary of a divorce

But just as we are all settling into No, I'm serious, I did). And to my surthe first few months I stopped seeing the Beloved holograms in doorways, because the furniture and colour schemes in them didn't match the new look of the house. But what I can't ning permission, is the outside. The lane sine-waving up the hill like a brontosaurus's back will always be the at the PTA ceileidh. lane where he told me he was leaving. The wood I see from my bedroom window will always be the place

There's VNC's feelings to be con-

public appearance in the village toprise it's been pretty successful. After gether, at the end-of-term carol concert at Buster's and Bunny's school. We were late, so our entrance was rather higher profile than planned, and the compare-and-contrast looks VNC had to endure would have been change, without bulldozers and plan- enough to chill any ordinary man's marrow. We need to go to a place where Beloved and I haven't danced

The other reason for leaving is VNC's job. He'll be working long, hard, out-of-doors-hours too far away what had been our bedroom a colour where we took our last walk together. to commute daily. He could do it deal. weekly. But I've done that one. I've

matching bikini, the video and of course the divorce to prove it. I don't want to do that boyfriend-girlfriend stuff of catching up with the edited highlights of each other's lives over dinner out in your best frock once a week. I want to do waking up on a Tuesday morning with a cold sore and bad hair and still being able to say "Good morning" as if you mean it.

But to get our fresh start together in a new place we have to go through the excruciating process of selling and buying a house. We have to go to Planet Estate Agent where every lawn is laid, every bathroom is a benefit and every house a property.

Thank God I'm used to it. I've done it on average every three years since I was seven, so one more time around won't hurt. Buster and Bunny, however, are not so laid-back. VNC and I are, of course, the high priest and priestess of the path to new domestic enlightenment, Buster and Bunny are only reluctant postulants. Like all children they are profoundly conservative, so the unknown territory of new schools, new friends and new houses is about as inviting to them as a holiday at the Chernobyl reactor. Selling the house and dovetailing that with buying the right new one will be like CSE dumpling-throwing compared with the A-level physics of convincing the kids that it's a neat

Stevie Morgan

17/OBITUARIES

Billie Dove

Lillian Bohny (Billie Dove), actress: born New York 14 May 1903; married 1923 Irvin Willat (marriage dissolved 1929), 1933 Robert Kenaston (died 1973; one son, one adopted daughter), 1973 John Miller (marriage dissolved); died Woodland Hills. California 31 December 1997.

Billie Dove was one of the greatest stars of the silent days of Hollywood. At the end of the 1920s she was voted, with Clara Bow, as America's most popular actress, and at the box office exceeded even the drawing power of Mary Pickford, Gloria Swanson and Greta Garbo. The singer Billie Holliday named herself after her. Billie Dove was born Lillian

Bohny in New York City in 1903. (Her brother, Charles, became a cameraman in Hollywood.) Her parents were Swiss immigrants. She visited Switzerland as a child, and spoke German before she spoke English. Her parents were Lutheran and their church organised sports events; the girls on the basketball team called her "Billie". The family lived far from the theatre district, but nearby was an open-air movie house. known as an Airdome. Here she was entranced by serials and was smitten by Bobby Harron in The Birth of a Nation.

"I had always liked the movies," she told the film historian William Drew. "All of the girls wanted to be in the movies. I didn't want to be. I knew I was going to be. I'm not psychic, but there have been instances in my dife when I have been absolutely sure of something and this was one of them." A neighbour worked as an

afraid

extra at Fort Lee, across the Hudson from New York City, and Billie's mother had her registered at the studios. One of her first appearances was in Joan of Plattsburg (1918), a Mabel Normand picture. The director instructed her to rush up to her brother and kiss him. She couldn't wait for the picture to come out so she could surprise her friends. As it happened the surprise was hers; the cameraman had merely photographed her legs.

Billie was an exceptionally inent artists as Charles Dana her the facts of life. The result da film in which a U-boat comhyget so shy. "Billie Dove" soon heard from her far more sobecame her professional name. phisticated showgirl friends, back it was marry me, many me, make any difference to me. I ladies in a picture, and she First National. It was generally fied with her pictures at First



'The Dove' in 1928: 'so lovely yet so shy'. In one month she received 37,320 fan letters, beating Clara Bow's record

Ziegfeld saw her portrait in an advertisement and called her for an audition. Still determined to break into pictures. Billie haughtily informed him that she

rus girl, so Ziegfeld gave her a featured role. Her timing could not have been more propitious. Eddie Cantor, the star of Ziegfeld Follies of 1919, had gone on strike with many of the girls and Ziegfeld had to replace them in a hurry. On the opening night, Billie

by a suitor carrying flowers but by her mother. Billie told her firmly that she knew how to get home on her own, and her mother never did that again. Yet it was one of the few hints she ever had of her concern. Her parents displayed no affection other. They had separated be- the Follies. Willat was the Sam beautiful girl, and was in great fore she entered show business Peckinpah of his day; he had her time in the Mojave Desert, part. "All I did was stand round first picture Columbia could get paid Willat \$3.25,000 in thoudemand as a model by such em- and neither of them revealed to woo notoriety for a propagan- making westerns with cowboy and look scared, but it was a into a big house, not because of Bibson. Howard Chandler was that she was dangerously mander was skinned alive. He Christy and James Montgomery naive; at the onset of her peri-Flagg, who called her "The ods she was convinced she was Dove" because she was so love- dying. Alarmed by what she

counters until she was married.

Ziegfeld she considered a kind man, but he had a firm rule that any girl moonlighting in pictures would be fired. Billie took had no interest in being a cho- the risk of playing an extra role to help another girl who had double-booked. The film people offered her more substantial parts and she resigned from the Follies. She met a press agent who exploited her Ziegfeld training by booking her in for personal appearances with her pictures. The scheme was met at the stage door not led to a year's contract with Metro, and a platonic relationship with one of the heads of the

Her second picture for that company was All the Brothers Were Valiani (1923), with Lon Chaney. The director was Irvin Willat: he had fallen for Billie said, ambiguously, "but it was towards her or towards each Dove from his first glimpse in cast Dove in this whaling story. shot in San Francisco Bay.

studio, Joe Engel.

"We were on location for a whole month and all the way

The impresario Florenz Billie decided to avoid sexual en- marry me, marry me." a million times until I finally said "yes" just to stop him. But I liked him I liked everybody.

> On her next picture, at Fox, her leading man was John Gilbert, who would eventually succeed Valentino as the Great Lover. He also entreated her to marry him, "I said, 'Sure', not kidding exactly, but, of course, I wouldn't have married him. I wouldn't have married any actor, as a matter of fact, no matter how much I liked them. But he took it seriously." When Gilbert was reconciled with his wife, Leatrice Joy, the producer Paul Bern was despatched to break the news. Billie Dove couldn't have cared less. She was having the time of her life.

> She and Willat were married in 1923. "We were fine." she not the sort of love you have in stars like Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson and Jack Holt, "Whenever one western was finished. they'd say, 'Where is Billie Dove?' and the next day I'd be in another one. It didn't

was in motion pictures and I stepped in, wearing Dove's cosloved it." tume, for the final clinch.

In 1925, while making Wild Horses Mesa (with a 15-year-old Douglas Fairbanks Jnr), she met the famous author Zane Grey. "He wrote me a beautiful letter in which he said that I was so much like his favourite character." The previous year, Dove

had starred in Zane Grey's Wanderer of the Wasteland, directed by Willat and shot entirely in two-colour Technicolor. It was this picture which led to her most celebrated role in another early Technicolor film, The Black Pirate (1926), directed by Al Parker. Douglas Fairbanks had wanted Evelyn Brent or Esther Ralston - there was even talk of his using a nonprofessional - but he was so impressed with the way her flawless complexion photographed in marriage." She spent much of colour that he gave her the

> Mary Pickford, then married to Fairbanks, would not permit playing the same roles as Norhim to kiss any of his leading

Every scene was a work of art.

She was hardly convincing, and Korda returned to Billie Dove for three more pictures with much more success. The New York Times critic, Mordaunt Hall, wrote that she played in these films with "considerable charm and intelligence". In one month she received

was to play the lead as the

world's most beautiful woman in

Alexander Korda's satire The Pri-

vate Life of Helen of Trov, but he

gave the role to his wife. Maria.

37,320 fan letters, beating Clara Bow's record. But she discovered that stardom meant brutally long hours - she often had to stay at the studio until midnight and be up next morning at five. Her marriage came under further strain. "We never had any big fight. Still it wasn't a passionate love affair. So we had a sensible agreement to separate and I went to live with my mother."

One of Hollywood's myths alleges that Billie Dove was a casualty of sound, but she made the transition so well that First National extended her contract. She made a total of 11 talkies.

She had legions of admirers. Marion Davies, mistress of William Randolph Hearst and another Follies veteran, introduced her to Howard Hughes, a multi-millionaire industrialist, movie producer and aviation enthusiast who was still only 22. The tall, gangly young man simply stared at her. "I thought, 'Good God! is this the guy they're talking about who's making Hell's Angels?' I was glad when he left the table."

Dove only realised he was serious when he appeared at every nightspot she went to. "Then I got to know him and found out that he was brilliant, charming and had a lovely sense of humour." Willat, however, refused to give Billie Dove a divorce - "I was very much in love with my wife," he said. "She was a great girl. My friend [Hughes] decided he wanted her,and he had so much more money than I did and I think she did much better. She never married him of course. It was better for her but worse for me, because she had so much to do with helping me."

In 1930, in one of the most extraordinary transactions in ture for Harry Cohn - "it was the Hollywood history, Hughes sand-dollar bills to give Billie a divorce. "I begged Howard not to," said Billie Dove, "but there was nothing I could do once he gave the money to Irvin. I felt like I'd been bought and sold."

Dove had become dissatis-

assumed in Hollywood that she National. Howard Hughes bought up her contract but her first picture for him. The Age for Love (1931), was an embarrassing flop. She was happier with Cock of the Air (1932), which exploited her talent for comedy. Alas, the Havs Office found it too risqué and insisted on savage and damaging cuts, and this flopped as well. Some historians consider that Hughes ruined her career.

After three years they split up. Dove steadfastly refused to reveal why. "It had nothing to do with any man and nothing to do with any woman - it was really such a tiny thing that you wouldn't believe it if I told you." Hughes is said to have regarded her as the love of his life and they remained on friendly terms. She had never flown with

Hughes, being afraid of aeroplanes, but now she took flying lessons. She met Robert Kenaston, a handsome young millionaire rancher, who invited her on a round-the-world trip. On her return, she was persuaded by Irving Thalberg to play with Marion Davies in Blondie of the Follies (1932). She regarded her part as the best of her career, but when the picture was run for Mr Hearst, he growled, "Well, it's a good Billie Dove picture". Panic followed this verdict; the finale was scrapped, writers were offered to change the story to boost Marion Davies's part and Billie's role was transformed. "When it was finished I was the heavy and I never played a heavy in my life. I think I would have sued but Marion and Mr Hearst were my friends and I couldn't do that to them."

Blondie of the Follies was Billie Dove's last picture, although she insisted that her retirement was not the result of that disappointment. She married Bob Kenaston in 1933 and her son, Robert Allen Kenaston, became an actor. She adopted a daughter, Gail. Dividing her time between

Los Angeles and Palm Springs, Dove took up painting and writing. She was an avid reader, she had met Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald at the Willat house and Dorothy Parker had inscribed a book; "To Billie Dove - God loves her, I do, too!" She was also fascinated by poetry. She took a course in creative writing at UCLA and became a successful author under the name Lillian Kenaston. She received many awards; the one that amused her most she received in 1962 for an advertising slogan. Her first prize was a small part in a movie.

Kevin Brownlow

Ramón Sampedro

Ramón Sampedro, campaigner: born Porto do Son. Galicia 5 January 1943; died Boiro, Galicia 12 january

Zamón Sampedro, a sturdy young seaman about to be married, went for a swim at his local beach in Spain's remote north-western region of Galicia. But that day in 1968 he misjudged the familiar shore

The next 29 years he lay

paralysed in bed, dependent on his family for every need. He became something of a national hero in his tenacious campaign for the right to receive help to die with dignity. Sampedro was the first Spaniard to battle in the courts for the right to assisted euthanasia. With constant good humour,

he explained that his life as "a and, dashed upon rocks, he head attached to a useless scrap

My life is absurd and meaningless. As a rational person I want a rational death."

Sampedro started his fight in 1993. In 1994 he appealed to Spain's Constitutional Court. which dismissed his case on a technicality. He then went to the European Court of Human Rights who said that the resources of the Spanish courts had not been exhausted.

Meanwhile the Netherlands.

was paralysed from the neck of flesh was actually a torment. the American state of Oregon, using a pointer held in his wrap him up warm as he felt "I am trapped in a dead body. and Australia's Northern Ter-mouth, and in 1996 he published ritory all gave permission for as- a book. Canus desde el Infierno sisted deaths. In November ("Letters from Hell"), about 1996 Galicia's provincial court of La Coruña agreed to reopen Sampedro's case and, with a clutch of helpers and a special vehicle supplied by an association for the handicapped, he made a rare sortie to attend the hearing in person. But this too

> Sampedro started to write "to stop myself from going mad" by and he joked that they must only suffering." As he was

LAW REPORT: 14 JANUARY 1998

ended in disappointment.

his experiences, his feelings of bitterness and his desire to die.

Sampedro had an extraordinarily alert and sociable personality. One miserable November day in 1996 he participated in a television debate in the Galician capital Santiago de Compostela. The

Her next picture was at Uni-

versal - The Marriage Clause

(1926), directed by Lois Weber,

one of Hollywood's few women

directors. "I'd never heard of

her before, but she was the best

director I ever had. If I'd had

anything to say about it, I would

have had her direct all my pic-

tures." She was rewarded by ex-

tion Seekers (1926), in which she

played a flapper. To the amuse-

ment of the crew, it turned out

that Dove did not smoke and

had to be taught how; unfortu-

nately this was enough to hook

her on nicotine. Willat was a

fanatical anti-smoker and it

helped to break up the marriage.

Cantor and Clara Bow in Kid

Boots (1926), Billie made a pic-

were after her. She considered

MGM, but realised she would be

ma Shearer. So she signed with

good picture, really good. The me, but because of Bert Lytell".

colour in it was so beautiful. By this time, all the studios

After working with Eddie

Weber also directed Sensa-

ceptional reviews.

After the show, he asked me to light him a cigarette, and with it clamped between his teeth, his gaze warm and lively, he explained why he drew no comfort from the Church. "It's all right for those who feel protected and guided by their religion, but I'm an agnostic. I'm a sailor, I love liberty. All I want is a welcoming harbour after death, a haven wild westerlies were howling from this arid life that is for me

wheeled back to his vehicle through horizontal sleet, he smiled and said "I can feel on my

face. Give me a kiss." So I did. Some months ago, he resolved to decide his fate, and moved into the nearby house of a woman friend. A secret autopsy will determine the circumstances of his death, but a letter and video apparently indicate that his desire for a dignified, assisted death was eventually fulfilled.



- Elizabeth Nash Sampedro: fletters from hell

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS ▲ JARCROFT: Professor Henry, aged

3 years, peacefully at home on 11 January. Funeral Service at the Free Church, Central Square, Hampstead Garden Suburb. on Wednesday 21 January at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations to North London Hospice, c/o Leverton & Sons, 624 Finchley Road, London NW11 7RR, 0181 455

MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EH 5DL, telephoned to 9171-293 2012 or faxed to 9171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

unts for Gazette BIRTHS,

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, President; Royal Yachting Association, attends the International Boar Show, Earls Court Eshibition Centre, London SW5; as Parron, British School of Osteopathy, opens their new premises, 278 Borough High Street, London SE1; and as President British uce premises, 22 Borougn righ Street, London SEI; and, as President, British Knitring and Clothing Export Council at-tends the British Apparel Export Awards, the Royal Lancaster Hotel London W.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Birthdays

Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Comptroller to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 67; Professor Sir Melville Arnott, cardiologist, 89; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 69; Miss Carol Bellarry, executive director of Unicef, 56: Mr Richard Briers, actor, 64; Baroness Brooke of Ystradfellie. former vice-chairman, Conservative Party, 90; Lady Byford, former president, Conservative and Unionist Association, 57; Lord Catto, president, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Group, 75; Miss Faye Dunaway, ac-tress, 57; Mr Michael Foster MP, 34; Miss Maler Gillard Foster MP, 34; Miss Maina Gielgud, ballerina. 53; Mr Brian Hardie, cricketer, 48; Sir Martin Holdgate, president, Zoo-logical Society of London, 68: Sir Arthur Hoole, solicitor and former chairman of the College of Law, 74; Mr Jack Jones, singer, 60; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, former Master of Christ's College, Cambridge. 70; Mr John Lever, Headmaster, Canford School, 46; Mr Warren Mitchell, actor, 72; Mr Trevor Nunn, theatre director, 58; Sir Neil Pritchard, former ambassador to Thailand, 87; Sir Vernon Seccombe, chairman, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, 70; Mile Caterina Valente, guitarist and singer, 67; Mr Bill Werberniuk, snooker player, 42; Sir John Woodcock, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 66: Mr Roger Young, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-

Anniversaries

Births: Benedict Arnold, soldier and traitor, 1741; The Rev Wilson

Carble, founder of the Church Army, 1847; Pierre Loti (Louis-Marie-Julien-Visud), novelist, 1850; Dr Albert Schweitzer, missionary surgeon 1875; Hal Roach, film producer and director, 1892; Sir Cecil Waher Hardy Beaton, photographer and stage designer, 1904. Deaths: Edmond Halley, astronomer, 1742; John Pindar ("Peter Pindar"), physician and poet, 1819; Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingrès, painter. 1867: Lewis Carroll (Charles Lurwidge Dodgson), author, 1898; Humphrey DeForest Bogart, actor, 1957; Anais Nin, writer and poetess, 1977. On this day: the Great Prost Fair began on the Thames, 1205; Norway was ceded to the King of Sweden by the King of Denmark, 1814; an attempt was made on the life of Napoleon III by Felice Orsini, an Italian revolutionary, 1858; an earthquake in Jamaica destroyed Kingston and killed over 1,000, 1907; the musical show The Boy Friend was first produced. London, 1954; the law requiring motorists to wear scattlehs was made permanent, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony Pucci. St Barbasymas or Barbascemin, St Datius. St Felix of Nola, St Kentigern or Mungo. St Macrina the Elder. The Martyrs of Mount Sinai and St Sava.

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum: Mi-

randa Neave. "Early 18th-century English Silver", 2,30pm. Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood. The New English Art Club and Camden Town Group: approaches to British painting". Ipm.

The Court of Appeal no longer had the power, since the amendment of section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 by the Criminal Appeal Act 1995, to allow an appeal against conviction if it did not think the conviction was unsafe but was dissatisfied in some way with the trial process, since there was no longer room for the separate notion of an "unsatisfactory defence case. conviction. An accused who had changed his plea to guilty, following a ruling by the trial

judge allowing the admission of prosecution evidence which made the case against him factually overwhelming, was not entitled to appeal against conviction, since his change of plea was not "founded upon" an erroneous ruling by the

Regnal . Chalke, and anon Court r Appeal Temp & Democratic Long ngare Agin for jende lan konness ere für tratte George die 19 Encember 1997

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeals of Tony Michael Chalkley and Tony Brisbane McEwan Jeffries against their as unsafe a conviction based on convictions on 30 October of conspiracy to rob, both men having changed their pleas to guilty after a ruling by the trial judge that the prosecution could adduce evidence of tape recorded conversations which were highly damaging to the

funothy Cassell QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Chalkley. Thomas Brown (Registrar of Criminul Appeals) for Jeffrics, Howard Morrison (Crown Prosecution Service) for

Lord Justice Auld said that the sole test in deciding an appeal against conviction under the new section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, substituted by the Criminal Appeal Act 1905, was whether the conviction was unsafe.

new forms respectively entitled the Court of Appeal to quash a plea of guilty where the plea was mistaken or uninformed or without intention to admit the truth of the offence charged. In the case of the old form it was commonly said that a conviction might also be quashed where the plea was "founded upon" a material irregularity, or, it was submitted for the appellants, an erroneous ruling on a point of law.

Appeal will only lie where conviction is unsafe

A plea of guilty could be said to be "founded upon" such a ruling where, once the error had been corrected on appeal, the appellant could not in law have been convicted of the offence charged on the admitted facts, or, on a broader interpretation, where the plea had been influenced by an erroneous ruling of law. That was

House of Lords had apparently been content to apply, in the absence of the point being taken, in R v Khan (Sultan) [1995] QB 27, C4 and [1996] 3 WLR 162, HL. However, the earlier authorities and three decisions of the Court of Appeal, R v

lants, and was that which the

Court of Appeal and the

Eriemo [1995] 2 Cr App R 206, R v Bachu (unreported, 18 November 1994) and R v Greene (unreported, 8 April 1997) demonstrated the logical imperative of the first, narrow, construction of the expression "founded upon". The good sense of preferring that narrow interpretation lingered on even with regard to the new test of safety of a conviction under the new section

It had also been suggested the meaning urged upon the that the appellants' pleas of

Section 2(1) in its old and court on behalf of the appel- guilty had been induced by oppression by the police in obtaining the evidence and that the circumstances of the ruling, taken as a whole, entitled the court to go behind their pleas. Such a suggestion necessitated a return to the removal of the word "unsatisfactory" from section 2(1) of the 1968 Act as a ground of appeal against conviction.

Whatever might have been the use by the court of the former tests of unsatisfactoriness and material irregularity, they were not available to it now, save as thought processes leading to a decision on the safety of the conviction. The court had no power under the substituted section 2(1) to allow an appeal if it did not think the conviction unsafe but was dissatisfied in some way with what had gone on at the

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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David Blunkett is in danger of slipping into a very alluring trap - the not uncommon ministerial delusion that you can transform Britain's schools by exhorting teachers to do what you think is right. Strange that one of Labour's most estimable and politically sensitive ministers should be so misled; but the signs are unmistakable.

The overwhelming majority of teachers are deeply committed to their work, and urgently want their children to succeed. But they have very firm views about what they believe are the best ways of making progress. At training colleges and on teaching practice they learn ways of managing classrooms and learning programmes, and then they go into a classroom, and for the rest of their teaching lives they are more or less on their own. For most, classroom autonomy is greatly treasured, and with some justice: we all know that the best teachers are those who develop their own unique style, and are allowed to get on with it in the way they

know best. But not all teachers, by definition, are among the best. In truth, most primary teachers are brilliant at tending and caring for their charges, but many are considerably less good at teaching them, either because they know too little, or because they afflict themselves with incffective methods.

It is these teachers - the average ones in the middle who initially found the national curriculum too much - who protested that they need more time to teach the basics, and so needed to be released from the remainder of the new national curriculum. Mr Blunkett, who wants (indeed, has pledged) a steep rise in children's performance in the basics, has portrayed his relaxation of the national curriculum as an answer to teachers' earlier appeals.

The net effect of all this is likely to be confusion which, far from raising performance in the basics, may actually stifle the improved performance currently under way. Yesterday morning on Radio 4 one

teacher interpreted this move as an imposition of required hours teaching the three Rs in an offensively traditional way. Mr Blunkett does not want that to happen. Then the teacher unions interpreted his move as a delightful relief of the pressure on teachers, which is also not what Mr Blunkett intended. But no matter. He will be misunderstood by some, and understood by others. Some will resent his intervention, and others will feel that he has signed up to the "back to basics" crusade.

The point about learning the basics, as Mr Blunkett knows very well, and the teacher unions sensibly agree, is that noone learns anything very much unless they have the tools. It is perfectly possible for all normally adept children to acquire "the basics" (functional literacy and numeracy) by the middle of their junior school, so long as the attention given to learning them is consistent, applied, and that it happens every day in a methodical manner.

We could get badly side-tracked if

reform

teachers interpret this latest government move as an excuse to return to boring lessons. The biggest single problem with most primary lessons is that the children find them uninspiring and unchallenging. One reason is that they are not given work that progresses from one task to a higher level task. Another is that there is still too much superficial project work and charming but undemanding group arts work. A third is that children in too many schools still spend too much time sitting in groups round tables supposedly working together, but actually distracting each other. Worse (as was pointed out in a different context yesterday) too many primary schools fill children's ears full of utterly unscientific nonsense, particularly about subjects like the environment, thinking they are imparting fundamental social values.

The way to change all this is to turn mediocre teachers into good ones by showing them that their old ways do not really work, and are often more tiring and

AND I DON'T

WANT TO CATCH

YOU READING A HISTORY BOOK

IN CLASS AGAIN!

time-consuming than they need to be. They will not take that from a Secretary of State, however upstanding they think he is. Nor will they take it from professors, and authorities, however important and well-researched their papers are. They will only take it from their immediate colleagues and superiors. And they, in turn, will only learn it from their peers. Improve heads' understanding of what works, and you enable them to improve their teachers. Improve teachers, and you raise standards. The best way to achieve this might be to identify 250 top quality primary schools that are doing all the (very various) right things, and ensure that every other head and deputy head goes to see how they succeed. A version of this is happening in some degree, as inspectors carry good practice around with them from school to school. Replicate good practice, and standards will rise. No amount of exhortation will ever match that the evidence of teachers' own eyes.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

I see another education

Jou see another education reform
We all see another education reform

Japanese apologies

Sir: David Walker ("For Japan, the art of forgetting is first to remember", 12 January) provides a generally balanced analysis of how the Japanese have faced their past, However, his claim that "the sum total of British iniquity since the abolition of the slave trade is impressively small" is questionable

The British Empire abolished the slave trade 1807. In 1839-42 came the Opium War. Having won that war, Britain was to continue to export opium to China. As we enter the 20th century, we see the Amritsar massacre in India. (The Queen did not make an official apology during her state visit.)

The repercussions of British colonial rule are still felt in many parts of the world: African countries whose economies are still dependent on cash crops; Muslim-Hindu clashes, aggravated by the divide-and-rule policies Britain adopted. I would describe this as an iniquity that is "impressively large".

I agree with David Walker that there is an element of refusal in the Japanese to remember what happened in the past. There can be no excuses for the atrocities the Japanese committed during the war. However, his claim that Japanese schoolchildren, "never read about [Japan's imperialistic past] in their government-approved textbooks" is untrue. I was taught about this in a Japanese state school when I was 14.

It is true that some "rightwing boot boys" and politicians in Japan are reluctant to acknowledge Japan's responsibility. However. Japanese historians have debated this matter, and there are many Japanese who do face up to their country's dark historical past. SHOGO SUZUKI Ilkley. West Yorkshire

Sir: David Walker criticises the Japanese for their national amnesia while himself forgetting their continued rigid adherence to the "peace clause" of their constitution, which must take some resolution considering the unpredictable and aggressive military regime in North Korea, just across the Sea of Japan. A persistent commitment to non-rearmament is the Japanese way of ruing the violence of the past and represents a practical safeguard

against a repeat performance. If the Japanese method of being post-war Japan differs from



national characteristics and behaviour are not like our own. All diplomatic dealings are like that. **LEO LEWIS**

Keble College, Oxford

Sir: Half a century on, the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association are asking for "proper" compensation and renewed apologies using the "right" words.

Well, tough! War is war. At least they came back. My own father didn't come back. He was cut in two by a grenade while trying to help a wounded comrade. We didn't expect apologies, or compensation.

What if the Japanese ask for an apology and compensation for Hiroshima and Nagasaki? ANJA HASSELL Budleigh Salterton, Devon

Air and asthma

Sir: Your article "Pollution not to blame for childhood asthma" (9 January) implies that air pollution is only a problem in urban areas. Unfortunately for those living in rural areas, this is not the case.

Levels of ozone (summertime smog) are higher in the countryside than in towns and cities. The pollutants which react to form ozone are pumped out in towns and cities, mainly from road traffic. However, chemical and meteorological factors such as wind direction mean that smog levels reach their peak in rural areas, many miles away from where the

pollution is emitted. Thus the pollution monitoring sites with the most breaches of government health standards for summertime smog in 1997 were at Lullington Heath in Sussex, Somerton in Sometset and Harwell in Oxfordshire.

The report suggests that al-

though air pollution does not cause asthma, it does aggravate the problem. This only strengthens the case for tough action to cut vehicle emissions.

the main source of the problem. The Government has the perfect opportunity to do just this by supporting the Road Traffic Reduction Bill when it is debated in Parliament at the end of the month.

TONY BOSWORTH Air Pollution Campaigner Friends of the Earth London N1

Sir: In my school in the 1930s no one had asthma. In my children's schools in the 60s and 70s, in a rural area, one in three

or four had the disease. The only thing not common to both groups was that we were not vaccinated as babies, whereas my children and their contemporaries had multi-vaccines at an early age. As asthma seems to be an allergic reaction I often wonder if the immune system is over-sensitised at too early an age. All sorts of other allergies seem much more prevalent. Mrs J MATHEW

Washingborough, Lincolnshire

Unseen asteroids

Sir: You report on the effects of an oceanic asteroid impact on coastal areas ("Asteroids" tidal wave threat", 8 January).

A spacewatch programme to monitor the skies in order to detect potentially dangerous space objects and give advance warning (possibly tens of years) is technologically quite feasible. However, such a project would require a long-term commitment as well as a unique blend of skills and techniques. These include the capacity to build remotely controlled robotic 2m class telescopes incorporating advanced optical and infra-red imaging techniques, and proficiency in the science of celestial mechanics. Very few countries can muster such resources, but

until recently the UK had this

capability in the form of the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Cambridge. Not any more.

Last July the Particle Physics

and Astronomy Research Council, the RGO's parent organisation, with the tacit consent by the Minister for Sciences, decided to close the RGO. An attempted management buy-out was turned down last December.

A modest investment would enable the UK to play a forefront role in a potentially lifesaving enterprise. Instead, the required infrastructure is being dismantled. Does this not tell us something about the competence of the powers that be in scientific matters? Dr E J ZUIDERWIJK

Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire

Responsible drinking Sir: Your article "Drunk driver

sentenced to a change of address" (6 January), goes into great detail about an individual peatedly in the US for violations of state drink driving laws. No mention is made in the report of any alcohol drinks brand yet you positioned a picture of our Budweiser beer brand in the heart of the story. As leaders in promoting alcohol awareness and education, we feel strongly that the implied association between Budweiser and

your story was inappropriate.

PRIE STLEY

As the world's largest brewer, Anheuser-Busch has a longstanding history of encouraging responsible drinking among adults who choose to drink and is committed to fighting alcohol abuse, drunk driving and underage drinking. The company has invested over £100m since the mid-1980s in community-based alcohol awareness and education programmes.

WILLIAM McNULTY Vice President and Regional Director Anheuser-Busch International

Motson no racist

Sir: There is a facile self-righteousness in the recommenda-tion by Trevor Phillips (Comment, 10 January) that the BBC chastise John Motson for his inability to recognise certain footballers, especially if they are black.

We are, by and large, best able to recognise and distinguish that with which we are familiar from a very young age. In my profession I meet people from many countries and more than once I have heard from some, especially from the Far East, that they find it difficult to tell one Westerner from another. Do I feel slighted? Do I note that their treatment of me and my fellow Caucasians is otherwise affected? Of course not.

Unfortunately, real racism generates a disposition on the part of some to espy it in the most inappropriate contexts. ERIC HARVEY Tomes,

Devon

Sir: Trevor Phillips and others should recognise the world of difference between a racist insult such as "all black footballers look alike" and John Motson's self-deprecatory statement that he finds it "dif" ficult' to distinguish between black players. Recognition of our inadequacies is a prerequisite to correcting them. CLARK KILLICK Chelmsford

Save local chemists

Sir: Steven Round, marketing director of Superdrug Stores (letter, 12 January), quotes £180m per annum as the cost to the public of resale price maintenance on medicines. That is £3 per person per year.

Hands up those who would not spend a penny a day to keep the local chemist's shop open. PW GOLDBERG London NWS

Thing from the Deep

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Sir: Has anyone noticed the quite uncanny resemblance between the Thing/Blob/Dinosaur/Giant Squid cast up on a Tasmanian beach (photograph, 10 January) and the Millennium Dome? Same shape, same mystery about its contents, same unpleasant odour? RICHARD LANNOY

The real difficulty was that as a body, traders sell very few corpses



MILES KINGTON Today I am concluding the postmodernist story I started yesterday which tells the tale of Captain Humphrey Wantage

Capt Humphrey Wantage was the first man ever to donate his body to science - to the science of meteorology, that is. But when the body arrives on his doorstep, Sir Basil Bellwether, head of the notorious London Weather Centre, can think of no use for the corpse, so has decided to forward it secretly to his colleagues at the London Metal Centre.

"What do you mean, there's a body for me at the front entrance?" shouted Sir George Mentzel down the phone.

"Just what I say, sir," said Nobby Lindup. "It's a body in a bag, and it's addressed to you. name at Lloyd's nor a governor

You must have ordered it." Sir George Mentzel was the head of the London Metal Centre, and Nobby Lindup was the doorman. Normally they would never have spoken to each other. Nobby had a deep contempt for Sir George, and Sir George was terrified of all doormen. But when a body turns up on the front door step, and you don't know what to do with it, the best thing is to go straight to the top. Nobby had gone straight by phone to the top, which was Sir George Mentzel's office on the 15th floor of the London Metal Centre, where Sir George Mentzel daily gazed out upon London and gave thanks to God that he was neither a

of the Royal Opera House. "Order a body? Why on earth would anyone want to order a body, Lindup?" shouted Sir George Mentzel down the

"Well necrophilia, sir?" suggested Nobby. "Medical experiments? Vampirism? Prop for a horror movie? Practical joke on a friend? Experiments with the effect of bullets on the human body ...? "Do you really think I'm a

necrophilia?" shrieked Sir George. "Not at all, sir," said Nob-

by soothingly. "You just asked me why anyone would want to order a corpse, and as requested I was trying to think of possible reasons."

George, slightly mollified. the London Metal Centre. "What else does it say on the label?"

"I can't say for sure, sir," said "Well, can you say for unsure?" said Sir George Mentzel.

Author's note: Sir George Mentzel was of Austrian extraction and had spoken German as boy, so he tended to treat the English language analytically in a way that the English do not, and this meant that he thought it was funny to say "Can you say for unsure?" He was wrong, of course, but as he was the boss, nobody dared tell him.

"No, I can't," said Nobby. The fact of the matter was that Nobby Lindup was almost totally illiterate, which was why

Truth to tell, he had been under the impression when he joined the London Metal Centre that he was going to work at the London Medal Centre, which had overjoyed him, as he was mad about all sorts of sports trophies, and rosettes, and cup-winner's medals, and military decorations.

"I'd better come down and have a look," grumbled Sir He had to agree when he got

down to the ground floor lobby that Nobby had a point. It did look like a body. It was in a bag with his name on it. And there was a message saying that the late departed wanted to give his body to science, to he had remained a doorman at the science of metallurgy.

"What use would a body be to a metallurgist?" cried Sir George, and as Nobby Lindup opened his mouth and prepared to think up half a dozen reasons, Sir George quickly carried on: "No, don't tell me! Just think of some way of getting rid of the body!" Well, sir," said Nobby,

"why can't we re-donate it? This bloke wants to donate his body to science, but I don't think it matters much which science. Why metallurgy? Why not methodology? Or Meta-

physics?" "I don't think metaphysics is science," murmured Sir George. "In fact, I don't think methodology is either. And I don't see why it has to begin

said Nobby, ignoring this last stricture. "That would be perfect! Send the body round to the London Mineral Centre, with the label changed to read, "I have always wanted to donate my body to the science of mineralogy!" Even Sir George had to ad-

"What about mineralogy?"

mit it was a great idea. And that was how the body of the late Capt Humphrey Wantage came to be found outside the London Mineral Centre.

"We've got a body down here, sir" said Alf Turnbull, illiterate doorman of the London Mineral Centre, on the phone to the head of the outfit, Sir Donald ...

But I think you get the drift of the story.

العلكا من الدجل



HATTERSLEY TARGETING THE POOR

Even if the social security budget were to be increased by 10 per cent - a less likely event under the new government than it was under the old - the present pattern of payment would fail to meet the needs of the very poor. And should the total welfare bill be reduced. equity requires that low income families be protected from the cuts. The price will have to be paid by the richer recipients. Targeting benefits on those who need them most is politically dangerous and administratively difficult. But it is right and necessary and one "tough choice" which will help, rather than penalise the disadvantaged and dispossessed.

That is not an argument in favour of Harriet Harman's "affluence test" - which, as she described it, would totally exclude the highest earners from maternity benefit. An arbitrary division between the haves and have-nots would produce, at best, a two-tier welfare system and, at worst, a safety net which was designed to catch only paupers. Putting aside the humiliation of receiving a modern version of outdoor relief - which would certainly reduce the take-up rate - limiting payment to the poor is a certain prescription for more cuts in the social security budget. If the affluent middle classes - who also happen to be target voters - do not qualify for any benefit, the pressure to reduce their contribution to the cost of welfare will become irresistible.

In the past, the dilemma was resolved at least in part - by the taxation system. The rich appropriated a disproportionate share of all public spending - education, health and housing as well as social security. But what they received was kept in crude balance by what they contributed. With the top rate of income tax held at 40 per cent, the excuse of compensating contributions is more difficult to sustain. When New Labour lists the new circumstances that require fresh the Government's decision to abandon the thought, the reduced level of direct taxation lone parent supplement must be influhas to be put side by side with the increase in private pensions plans. The problem, caused by the changes in taxation levels, has to be solved by their revision.

It is easy enough to argue that, for example, child benefit is paid to many families which, on the calculation of purchasing power, do not need it. Were it to be designated as "taxable" income, the poorest families would receive payment in full, while the richest received only 60 per cent. Income tax is the means test about which we all feel least resentment. So, whilst some families would complain about the denial of benefit to the rich, no-one would denounce the affront it caused to the poor.

Taxing child benefit, at its present rate, would raise an extra £675m - enough for an average increase in the weekly payment of £1.70 per child.. For a three-child family liv-

ing below the poverty line, an extra £5 would provide necessities that they are now denied. Unfortunately, those families would only be better off if income support were to be increased by a corresponding amount, for under the present system the improvement in child benefit would be matched by an equivalent reduction. Were we to tax child benefit, use the revenue to increase the basic rate and leave income support at its present level, only 5 per cent of lone parents would gain. Twenty five per cent would actually lose, leaving 70 per cent with their position unchanged.

The moral is clear enough. If limiting benefits to "those who really need them" is just a way of cutting public expenditure, the object can, in part, be achieved by simple adjustments to the tax system. If, on the other and, the real hope is to concentrate limited resources on the most necessitous families, two initiatives have to go band in hand. Money can certainly be saved by reducing, or eliminating altogether, the payments made to the rich. But that, in itself, cannot finance the improvement in benefit levels which are essential to the poor. Without an increase in income support they would gain nothing. The increases could only be financed by higher rates of tax.

The arguments about taxing child benefit are complicated by philosophical doubts as well as its fiscal consequences. The scheme was introduced with the overt intention of subsidising families with children - irrespective of their income - rather than alleviating poverty. It replaced a tax allowance which related the level of help to the size of earnings and in the jargon of the time, transferred the payment "from wallet to purse". Child benefit was paid to mothers. Even in the age of working women - a habit which the Government is determined to encourage - including it within the tax calculation would, in many cases, divert it back into the wallet. A rational discussion about the future of child benefit requires us to begin from a clear understanding of what it is intended to do.

The myriad difficulties of performing what seems the simple task of helping those in greatest need illustrates the basic flaw in our social security system. Since its inception, in very different social circumstances, no overriding principle had guided the constant changes in levels and types of benefit. Some payments are received "by right" - a popular fiction encouraged by the belief that National Insurance contribution-"funds" the retirement pensions. Others, like child benefit itself, are intended to belo with the cost of desirable activities. Conversely enced, if only subconsciously, by its disapproval of single mothers. Most allowances are made in response to what should be the overwhelming obligation of a civilised society - the alleviation of poverty.

A genuinely radical review of welfare policies has to begin with a new declaration of basic principles - the creation of a comprebensive benefits system in which entitlement is primarily determined by need. That requires more to be paid to recipients at the bottom of the income scale than those at the top. But to make the system acceptable to the middle classes - and to maintain their gradging willingness to meet its costs - they must receive something. Targeting is barely less expensive than universal payment and certainly requires extra resources to be allocated to the social security budget. But it is right and, if we are to help the poor, it is essential.

The bickering on display about the Dome is what's most revealing



A spiritual puppet for the Dome, from 'The Jesus Story'

could not just be put in the

Dome - a way of killing two

birds with one stone if that is

not an unfortunate metaphor -

how to till the space and how.

One could argue that all vi-

sionary projects have to take off

from a standing start, but it is

not true that all of them are met

with such overwhelming apathy.

It is possible to excite and

stimulate even the jaded citi-

zens of the late twentieth cen-

tury. The new Guggenheim

built by Frank Gehry in Bilbao

for a fraction of the price of the

Dome is modern wonder of the

world. Those of as who have

never once thought of visiting

Bilbao want to see this beauti-

ful piece of architecture. Show

a classroom of children a pic-

ture of this museum and they

ooh and aah. They have simply

never seen anything like it. It

exists not only as a sight in it-

self but has a clearly defined.

to draw crowds.



SUZANNE MOORE MILLENNIAL **TENSIONS**

Will the views of practising Satanists be adequately represented in the great Millennium experience that the Dome is set to provide? Will Christianity be illustrated by anything more than a couple of dodgy looking puppets from the film The Jesus Story? Is this structure really big enough to house the male egos that are already having difficulty getting it up?

These are just some of the questions that have yet to be answered. Apparently, we can't be told what exactly is going to be in the dome as then we would not pay to go and see it, but ... come on boys, give us a clue. Instead Stephen Bayley flounces out of the project, Mandelson goes to worship at the shrine of Disney and wayward Tories call for the head of Sir Terence Conran because he has said that a dominant Christian theme would "be absolutely inappropriate". Things do not look too

Andrew Marr has argued on

tending to improve. Thus we

have fewer truly stupid, wealth-

destroying economic policies

than we did 10 or 20 years ago.

several negatives. The most

obvious is that the world seems

to be making the transition

from a period of inflation to a

period of stable prices. In the

long-run, a world of stable

prices might to be just as suc-

cessful in economic terms as

one of low inflation - probably

transition is difficult. We have

But stacked against this are

these pages that the Dome has become a convenient symbol for anyone who wants to critieise officialdom or this Government. That may be true though we hardly need an empty tent in order to that. He has also said that it acts as "a malign psychic magnet" for all kinds of unease. If only that were the case. A psychic magnet would at least have some power. At the moment we simply stare at a circle of cranes in an estuary and wonder what tresh hell is this.

I am not against the idea of the Dome in theory. The puritanism that suggests all money must be spent on obvious social need has never been my cup of tea. Celebration, leisure, visionary risk-taking contribute in the end to the collective social good. I am then, I suspect, like many others, open to persuasion on this matter, yet dismayed at the sheer arrogance on display.

This is a top down project, which is precisely what is causing so many of the problems. A few competing egomaniaes are deciding what is good for us. There is little sense of an organie project evolving out of what people want. We feel the whole structure is being imposed upon us and, naturally enough, resent such an imposition. Once more all the supposed PR and image making skills of this Government should be called into question. How have they got it so wrong? Why do they continue to insist the nation is excited about something it clearly isn't, 1 have not heard one enthusiastic conversation about the project, except by those somehow

Part of the problem of

course is that, in the normal runof events, buildings are built because there is a specific need for them to exist, to house people or things that need to be housed. The Dome, on the other hand, is being created in vacuum: it is being built: therefore a need must be found for it to exist. This is why its impermanence is such a problem, not only environmentally but because it adds to the halfbaked and wasteful feel of the whole enterprise. The other difficulty is to do with the abstract nature of what we are being asked to celebrate and vicariously participate in: "time", "the future", "the place in which we are all going to live" sound so vague that they are virtually meaningless. What all this boils do to, when one asks how will these things be brought to

life, is one thing: technology. The squabbles about *Conran or Christ ", whether God or Mammon will fill the Dome seem strangely anachronistic. If the Dome's purpose is to reflect our self-image then it will need to be that of a largely secular nation with pockets of faith here and there, a quick nod to Christianity perhaps but that's about it. Another kind of faith already dominates thinking behind the Dome, faith in design and technology, a faith that is being so badly communicated by its be-

For communication is the crux of the matter. I hate to draw attention to the obvious point, but as we are left with little to do but gawp at a circular

building site and witness the purpose. No one will be asking daily jostling of male egos, one to pull it down in twenty years wonders where the female input is into this millennial vision, 'Alas it is too late for us to

Where are the voices that wish have a structure of equivalent to include rather than exclude beauty. We have instead opted us from this precious vision? for something far more expen-Whereas the discussions sive and far less architecturally about the best way to comrisky. The bravest thing to do memorate Diana's life proceed would be leave to the Dome from a perceived need to proempty,to create a cathedral of duce something lasting, a respace. Everyone could then see sponse to the populist feeling exactly what they wanted to see about what she represented, the for the future. Dome continues to proceed As this looks unlikely it is from the opposite position. I never understood why Diana

now up to the Dome heads to act far less loftily and actually begin to talk to us instead of to each other. If the future will be defined by new methods of communication that in their way produce new kinds of community, then how come the whole thing is already being talked of us a massive failure of communication? Mandelson et al may have

faith in the fickleness of the public: one day they say they don't want something, the next they queue up for hours to visit it. What they seem to lack faith in is any idea of consultation and democracy - beyond bloody focus groups. Perhaps that's why the future feels like ir's already been sewn up. Its too late to ask for your cash back. Instead you are expected pay good money to glimpse someone else's vision of the future. You can look but don't touch. You can take a guided tour through it. Just don't ask to be actually included in it.

Beware: the business cycle has not been repealed



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Section 1

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HAMISH McRAE THE COMING RECESSION

is the R-word - not the three is, just the one R - and it spells ecession. One of the many essons of the present East sian crisis is that when things · re going well hardly anyone is repared to accept the possiility that the good times may or continue. The longer the eriod of success carries on, the tore secure it appears. Most ipposed experts are loathe to nund warnings as it makes iem unpopular, while those ho have spoken out start to se confidence in their judgeent and shut up. A conspiraof silence ensues, and so hen disaster strikes not only les it come as a complete surprise; it is very much harder to cope with because there has been no preparation for it. In the field of economics the

obvious, glaring issue which is not being discussed is the overwhelming probability that there will be another world-wide recession within the next five years. That recession will have a profound impact on relations between the big three economic regions of the world -North America, Europe and East Asia - and it will create great social strains within even rich and successful countries. It may, for example, be the thing that breaks the European single currency apart. More about that in a mo-

ment; how do I know there will be a recession? Of course I don't know - no-one can. But anyone with any knowledge of economic history will be aware of the business cycle - that periods of faster economic growth have always seemed to alternate with periods of slower growth, and that these periods of slower growth sometimes slip into outright recession. Just why such cycles should exist has been the subject of endless study and conjecture. But we don't need to understand the cycle to acknowledge that it exists. If you bought a house in Britain in 1988 you don't need to be an economist to see what a business cycle can do to property prices.

So there will be another downturn. The next question concerns its likely magnitude. The conventional view is that any downturn will be small. In America people talk of "the new paradigm", an expression which I have never quite understood but I think refers to the combination of low inflation, flexible markets and great entrepreneurial zeal that is powering the American economy. My problem with this is that a lot of the arguments more so. But managing the about the special nature of US

No one is discussing the great probability that there will be a recession within five years

economic performance may be right, but it is still possible for recession to strike. While, looking around the world. I can see some reasons to expect a relatively mild recession next time. I can see more that suggests it may be quite serious.

On the positive side are the fact that inflation world-wide is falling, that there is a new burst of technological advance taking place, and government policies both in the developed and the developing worlds are

had no experience of this since the early part of the last century following the Napoleonic Wars. except the 1920s and 1930s, a period which was so dreadful that it doesn't bear thinking about Disinflation can so casily tip into serious deflation and hence depression. It would be astounding if we were to get through this transition without some mistakes of economic policy; we just have to hope that

they won't be too serious. Next, each of the three big regions has its problems. Enough has been said about East Asia to need no further comment. The region has somewhere between three and five years of adjustment ahead of it, and we should not assume that such adjustment will happen in the optimal way.

In North America the key problem is that despite the admirable economic performance the place is still running a large. current account deficit and the US has become the world's largest debtor nation. Add to this the fact that US share prices are at exceptionally high levels by historical standards and you can see that the undoubted success has a certain fragility to it. Here in Europe the problems

cary from country to country. The fringe (which of course includes the UK) is in general doing fine, but the core is threatened by socially-divisive levels of unemployment. Further, Europe may well de-stabilise itself by choosing this moment to introduce a single currency. Leave aside the arguments for and against and look at the timing: if you wanted to chose the worst possible moment for an experiment of this sort, this is as had as you could get. The new currency is being brought in at time of the highest unemplayment since the Second World War and all the uncertainty associated with that - and

at the moment when all conputers have to be adjusted to cope with the Millennium bug. That bug does matter. Even it the scare stories - that for example 5 per cent of companies will go bust as a result of cash-flow pressures - are mostly wrong, even a few being right will be nega-

tive for the world economy. So what will happen? We are clearly in for some sort of global downturn. I think, balancing the points above, that it will be a middling one, about the same magnitude as the early 1980s and early 1990s recessions, but different in its quality in ways I cannot fully foresee. I guess that the UK will be relatively unscathed, but I am very worried about the impact on Germany and France, societies which seem more and more fragile.

Timing? Here I have a bit more confidence. I think things will canter on quite well, notwithstanding the chaos in East Asia, until the Millennium. And then there will be a flop, There will be some disruption because of the bug, and EMU. if it happens, will generate more. Above all, there will be a sense of anti-climax. People will have a party, then say "phew", pull back their horns, pause in their spending and worry about the future. Once they do that, things could head down quite tast. The R-word would be



Home Insurance cover is only available in England, Scotland

and Wales and is subject to acceptance by underwriters.

Double setback for Microsoft in internet battle

Microsoft, the American computer software giant headed by the billionaire Bill Gates, bit a big hurdle yesterday when its Tokyo offices were searched by Japan's Fair Trade Commission . : while in America it received an early setback in its high-profile. court battle against the US Justice Department. Mary Dejevsky in ... Washington and Richard Lloyd Parry in Tokyo report.

The Japanese agency searched Microsoft's Tokyo offices on suspicion of breaking antimonopoly laws by pressurising computer of the company allowed computer manu- browser market. Netscape. facturers to license its Windows 95 Microsoft told Judge Jackson that operating system only on condition that they Lawrence Lessig was biased against the did not install Internet browsers created by company and complained that Mr Lessig rival software companies.

last night, but company sources denied that _ soul, presumably equating Microsoft with aimed at gathering information in con- an executive at Netscape Communicanection with the legal dispute in the Unit- tions Corp, Microsoft's rival. ed States". Microsoft Japan's president.

Department went back to court yesterday in ket, which was fast becoming a monopoly. the latest round of a dispute seen by the LIS - In a move that clearly infuriated the Jusas a crucial test of its competition policy in tice Department, Microsoft responded by say-

can be ruled in contempt because of what "integral" browser had been removed. It is the Justice Department regards as its in- this response that, in the view of the Justice adequate response to an earlier court. Department, places Microsoft in contempt. judgment. This ordered it to supply its Microsoft will argue that it is being Windows 95 software to computer manufacturers without obliging them to take its . program, that the browser is an integral part Internet Explorer browser - the mechanism of it; and that the bundling is not monopthat allows access to the Internet. If Mi-olistic because it does not preclude other crosoft loses, it could be liable for fines of companies from marketing their own

In court yesterday, District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson sharply criticised key arguments presented by Microsoft. On three occasions during an opening state-ment by Microsoft lawyer Richard Urowsky, he challenged the attorney's focus on statements made by the Justice Department. The judge challenged Microsoft's claim that the Justice Department has been inconsistent in its demands for changes in Microsoft's marketing of its Internet Explorer browset. The judge suggested he would not accept Microsoft's effort to buttress its case by pointing to Justice Department filings, which would be a setback to the company.

Microsoft has also objected to the appointment of Professor Lawrence Lessig, a noted computer expert, of Harvard and makers into pre-installing its internet. Yale universities, and has made a formal browser - known in the trade as "bundling". request for his removal, alleging that he may According to FTC sources the Japanese ann be partial to Microsoft's chief rival in the

compared installing a version of Microsoft's Microsoft spokesmen were unavailable. Internet explorer product "to selling his Microsoft had broken Japanese law, and: the devil". Mr Lessig's comment was made said that the inspection was "apparently" in an e-mail message sent last summer to

The original order on 11 December to Makoto Naruke, said the company would: stop bundling the two products was to take effect immediately to prevent Microsoft from Meanwhile, Microsoft and the US Justice - expanding its dominance of the browser mar-

the new technology sector and by Microsoft ing that it could comply only by supplying an as an assault on its commercial freedom.

The specific issue is whether Microsoft one that did not work properly because the

penalised for the success of its Windows browsers for use with Windows 95.

Asian markets stage a comeback as IMF rethinks rescue conditions for Indonesia

Asian markets staged an impressive recovery yesterday, with those that had fallen the most making the biggest comebacks. However, as one ratings agency explained why it had misjudged the crisis, no one was viewing this turnaround as anything more than a blip. Stephen Vines reports from Hong Kong.

Asian markets recovered some poise yesterday, helped by Wall Street's bounce-back and hopes that International Monetary Fund-backed reforms would be firmly embraced as the only sure way out of the financial turmoil. Indonesia led the way, with share prices closing 8.5 per cent up as the government moved close to an agreement with the IMF, which yesterday eased the terms of its tough austerity programme.

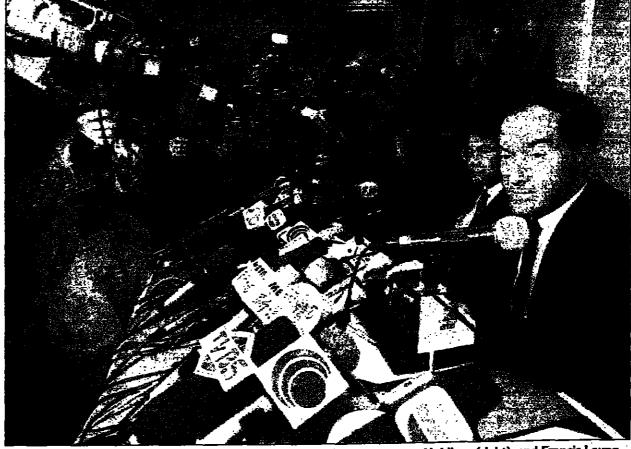
The IMF's deputy managing director, Stanley Fischer, said President Suharto of Indonesia had agreed to "strengthen" the terms of the IMF package, without giving details. In return, the IMF will no longer require Indonesia to have a budget surplus, sparking expectations the IMF may be more receptive to changes in the conditions it imposed earlier.

Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, said after his meeting take strong steps of the kind that have been under discussion with the IMF to create confidence and to build on the very strong foundations for prosperity that Indonesia enjoys."

The comments came as the IMF rescue package faced a fresh threat from an unholy alliance of left and right-wing politicians in the US hostile to America funding a bail-out programme. The Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, was heckled for defending US aid to Asia by activists at a meeting at a Los Angeles community centre.

Yesterday also brought a mea culpa from Fitch IBCA, one of the main credit ratings agencies, which admitted it had underestimated the seriousness of South Korea's problems until it was too late. The agency's report said: "The lessons for rating agencies - and indeed almost 7.5 per cent as interbank rates eased group's problems centred on Indonesia,

FTSE 100



with President Subarto: "It's clear that Facing the end: Philip Tose, chairman of the collapsed Peregrine Investments Holdings (right), and Francis Leung, President Suharto recognises the need to managing director, talking to reporters at a Hong Kong hotel yesterday

for international financial institutions and the market showed it was ready to such as the IMF - are profound because sovereign crisis."

The oversight had been to ignore the fact that a high proportion of South Korea's debt was very short term because its total level of indebtedness was low lower, for example, than Canada, Sweden or Australia. However, the structure of the debt turned out to matter because of the weakness of the Korean banking system when confidence in its solvency crumbled.

Fitch IBCA also criticised the Korean authorities, saying they seemed to have been in "psychological denial" about the crisis and failed to take suitable actions. In Hong Kong, shares were also up

Nikkei

discount the collapse of Peregrine Group, Asia-Pacific represents a new form of Asia's largest home-grown financial conglomerate, which was placed in the hands of liquidators Price Waterhouse

> There were emotional scenes in Hong Kong when the founders of Peregrine described how the Indonesian crisis had brought it down. "What happened was a complete meltdown in a country," Peregrine's chairman and co-founder Philip Tose said, his voice quivering.

> Peregrine's managing director Francis Leung, tears streaming, said he hoped to keep helping China-related firms raise capital. Speaking in public for the first time since the collapse, Mr Tose confirmed the

where it was hit by a bad short-term loan totalling \$265m (£164m) to a transportation company.

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Meanwhile, the Hong Kong market was buzzing with rumours that Mr Leung was talking to a number of mainland Chinese companies about taking over the stillprofitable stockbroking parts of the group's business. Mr Leung refused to comment. Price Waterhouse said there was significant interest in buying parts of the Peregrine business.

While Hong Kong shares were staging a recovery, a note of caution was issued by Moody's, the credit rating agency. It said that it had put a watch on the ratings of the territory's biggest bank, Hongkong Bank, and its sister bank, the Hang Seng Bank, as well as Bank of America.

Inflation drops despite pre-sales price hikes

Some retailers raised prices before Christmas by the biggest margin for 23 years in order to reduce them for the January sales. But behind the seasonal ups and downs, underlying inflation edged closer to its target. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, asks what it means for interest rates.

Both the headline and target measures of retail price inflation fell fractionally last month, to 3.6 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively. The figures suggested that rising interest rates have got underlying inflation back on course for its 2.5 per cent target, if not quite there yet.

Lower motoring costs - with a rise in petrol duty in the November 1996 Budget dropping out of the 12-month rate footwear were the main explanations for the decline.

upward pressure in December from the biggest monthly rise since 1974 in the price of household goods such as washing machines and furniture. The Office for National Statistics said the pattern of pre-Christmas price rises in preparation for January reductions had been getting more pronounced in recent years.

For example, the price of household goods, which usually climbs in November and December, was up 1.3 per cent a 1 per cent rise the previous December and a 0.7 per cent rise in December 1992.

The typical January price fall has also grown bigger, growing from a drop of 2.3 per cent five years ago to a 3.6 per cent cut per cent year on year. But this last January. Retailers typically

raise prices again in February

The year-on-year rate of increase in household goods prices has picked up, however, climbing from 0.9 per cent in September to 1.4 per cent last

Despite signs that strong demand is raising prices in some areas, economists welcomed vesterday's inflation figures. The small reduction led some who had expected a further quarter-point rise in interest rates next month to waver in their view, boosted by remarks by one member of the Monetary Policy Committee.

Charles Goodhart told a House of Lords committee that the Asian crisis "makes it likely the externor rate increases will he less than they otherwise would have been" - although he was not referring specifically to UK interest rates

Kevin Gardiner of Morgan Stanley said: "I'm not sure the good news will last, but the case for the Bank of England to wait and cheaper clothing and and see next month has grown Stronger."

This view was shared by the However, there was strong futures market, where gains, yesterday implied a market expectation that the odds are now against another rate rise and that the level of borrowing costs will be falling by mid-year.

Although Budget duty increases for tobacco and alcohol, and some food price and fare utive, said: "We have had a very rises can be expected to affect January's retail price index, the impact of the sales is expected to lead to another favourable figure for the target measure. Separate US figures showed

consumer prices climbed by last month. This compares with just 0.1 per cent in December, making the inflation rate for 1997 as a whole just 1.7 per cent, the lowest since 1986.

The underlying rate increased by more during the month, rising 0.2 per cent, or 2.2 was its lowest rate since 1965.

Conflicting **Christmas** message from retail giants

Two of Britain's largest retailers issued conflicting messages on Christmas trading yesterday as they released sales updates. Kingfisher, which controls Woolworths, B&Q and Comet. cheered the City with news of strong sales increases, which pushed the shares up 27p to a new high of 912p as analysts increased their profit forecasts.

However, Boots disappointed the market with lowerthan-expected numbers. Its trading was affected by the mild weather and the absence of any flu outbreaks this year, which affected the performance of Boots the Chemists.

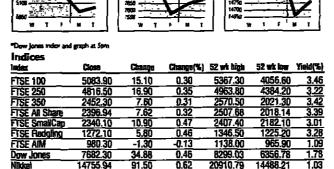
John Richards, retail analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "The Boots figures were not that bad but their rating now leaves no margin for error. At this time of year even the slightest nuance

tends to be magnified." Boots confirmed reports of a late surge in consumer spending before Christmas. Group sales in the third quarter were 6.8 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Boots the Chemists suffered from stock shortages caused by a warehouse fire in October, though healthcare sales were strong. Halfords' sales were up only 1.7 per cent.

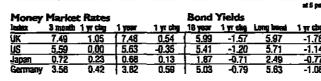
But the plaudits yesterday went to Kingfisher, whose shares have enjoyed a surge since a profits warning three years ago. Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief execgood Christmas. Most importantly Woolworths achieved another strong performance as did our two other major brands Pound B&O and Darty [the French electrical subsidiary].

Kingfisher's sales in the nine weeks to January were up by 8.2 per cent on a like-for-like basis. B&Q led the way with a 14.5 per cent sales gain. But sales at Comet, the electrical group, only rose 1.3 per cent. This added to gloom over Dixons' half-yea figures which are due today.

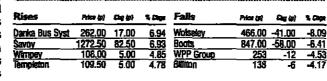
STOCK MARKETS



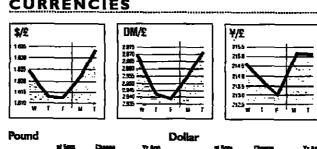




MAIN PRICE CHANGES



CURRENCIES



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	Dollar	1.6326	+1 11c	1.6704	Sterling	0.6125	-0.42p	0.59
e	D-Mark	2.9707	+2.23pl	2.6611	D-Mark	1.8195	+0.13pt	1.58
2	Yen	215.04	-¥0.30	195.10	Yen	131.72	-¥1.09	116.
	xebnt 3	103.90	+0.30	95.90	\$ index	110.60	+0.70	99.

OTHER INDICATORS

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Brent Oll (\$)	15.30	0.37	23.58	GDP	113.90	3,70	109.84	Jan
Gold (\$)	280.75	2.50	358.60	RPŧ	160.00	_	154,44	Jan
Silver (\$)	5.59	0.06	4.76	Base F	iates	7.25	6.00	
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Treasury rules for ISAs may cost providers £lbn

The Government's plan to replace Tessas and PEPs is so complicated it will cost the savings industry an extra £lbn, according to IT providers. As Andrew Verity reports, companies will have to spend at least £1 m each on computer systems to cope with the Individual Savings

If the costs are passed on to the consumer, every ISA buyer will pay an extra £30 each, every year, to pay for administrative complexity, according to OSI, a management consultancy.

Account (ISA).

cost of complying with the new regulatory regime. Extrapolating from estimates by its clients, OSI said life companies, banks, fund managers and PEP providers would spend £960m more. Peter Elliott, OSI principal,

ditional cost to an industry still coming to terms with the billions being spent on the year 2000 issue, EMU and the introduction of open-ended investment companies (Oeics). If the cost was passed on to the customer, it would amount to around £100-£150 over a five-year period."

The finding was backed yesterday by other big providers of IT services. Expensive systems will be needed to police numerous new rules. Those include

OSI yesterday said its price a £5,000 annual limit on contag of £1bn was based on the tributions, a £1,000 limit on cash deposits, a £1,000 limit on life insurance and a £50,000 lifetime limit (minus withdrawals).

Stuart Greenslade, of Mariborough Sterling, the IT provider, said: The issue is - how the hell is a provider going to mansaid: "This £1bn will be an adage all of this? It becomes even more complex - what are they going to do when people transfer their money or withdraw? "It is probably going to cost

about £1m per system and with some companies it will be £2m. The limits are understood to

have been imposed by Treasury officials concerned at the £1.27bg cost of tax reliefs for the ISA. IT providers are concerned not only at the cost but

Pollution targets may undermine coal offer

Eastern Group, the UK's fourth-largest power generator, could be forced to cut short a consumer offer aimed at boosting the market for British Coal if the Environment Agency pushes ahead with tough new pollution targets.

The generator will mount a savage attack on the pollution proposals in submissions to the agency, claiming it would have to import almost all its coal from abroad to meet the new obligations.

Jim Whelan, managing director of Eastern's generation business, described the targets as "absolute rubbish". He said: "This can't be consistent with the Government's drive to help the coal industry."

Under Eastern's offer, called Lionheart, it would buy 1.5 tonnes of extra British coal for every new customer it signs up when the domestic electricity market opens to competition later this year. But Mr Whelan said Eastern could only offer Lionheart for a very short time if the agency implemented the targets. "There's clearly a lack of joined-up thinking here. We can't buy coal if we can't burn it."

The targets would bring forward a planned cut in sulphur emissions from 2005 to 2001. The agency said generators could meet the obligation by burning British coal with an average sulphur content of less than 1.2 per cent. But Eastern said coal from RJB Mining, the largest producer, had an average sulphur content of 1.6 per cent.

Fraud squad inquiry into City Financial

The Metropolitan Police is investigating with to prosecute over allegations of fraud at City Financial Partners, one of the country's largest Cone of the firm's top sales people, 40-year-old Jerry Robertson, has been arrested and bailed and is being interviewed by New Scotland Yard's fraud squad, SO6, over the

A short statement from the Met said: "SO6 is investigating allegations of fraud at City Financial Partners, based in Russell Square, WCL A man now aged 40 has been arrested and bailed." Police will decide next month, when they next interview Mr Robertson, whether to bring charges of fraud. No wrongdoing has so far been established.

It is understood that the allegations relate to an account held with Fidelity, the US fund manager, in Mr Robertson's name. He allegedly used the fund not for his own benefit but to pay topups on surrendered policies which contained less than clients had believed.

City Financial Partners, seen in the industry as the epitome of a 1980s, sales-driven operation, was last month bought out by Lincoln, the UK operation of giant US insurer Lincoln National Simon Ingram, City Financial's chief executive, is soon expected to take up a new role

- Andrew Verity

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OUTLOOK ON NEW FACES AT ICI, ABUSE OF MARKET POWER IN NEW TECHNOLOGY. AND THE LATEST

INFLATION FIGURES

A fresh lick of paint for the ICI boardroom

A lot has changed at ICI since Ronnie Hampel arrived as a fresh faced commercial trainee 42 years ago. For a start, most of its traditional UK customer base has disappeared. For another it has discovered that bulk chemicals is a mug's game for all but the world's biggest players and those with supplies of cheap raw materials and labour.

Through all this ICI has managed a surprising clever evolution, first by shifting its production and marketing effort abroad, then by growing a high margin pharmacenticals business. When it realised that pharmaceuticals is an entirely separate industry, it bravely demerged. Then last year ICI did the splits for a second time. selling off industrial chemicals and concentrating on the less lumpy, less cyclical businesses of paint and speciality chemicals.

Now it is about to change again but this time it will be management, not businesses going through the revolving door. The promotion of Charles Miller Smith to chairman next year only three years after arriving from Unilever and the recruitment of an heir apparent as chief executive in the shape of Brendan O'Neill from Guinness means that ICI will be run by a pair or outsiders for the first time since its foundation in 1926.

Although ICI's traditional strengths lie in science and technology, its future belongs as much to those who know how to market products, like Messrs Miller Smith and O'Neill. The fact that an incumbent is not being groomed for the top slots speaks volumes. Those who are passed over for the top job at ICI rarely hang around. Bill Duncan and Bob Haslam went off to run Rolls-

Royce and Tate & Lyle respectively after John Harvey Jones pipped them to the chairman's job, and Robin Ibbs soon left for Lloyds Bank after coming second to Denys Henderson. Sir Ronnie may find the exodus has already started when he hands up the chairman's job next April.

Gates is trying to stifle competition

A recent survey discovered that Bill Gates has achieved role model status among children and teenagers - a position normally reserved for pop, movie and sports stars. Unfortunately, not all of what Mr Gates does deserves unqualified admiration. Like many inspired and highly successful businessmen, he is also essentially a monopolist. And like Rupert Murdoch, he is also a remarkably successful one.

Microsoft was back in the US courts yesterday arguing over whether its Internet Explorer software should be treated as a separate product from its Windows computer operating system. The arguments bear some repeating. Microsoft claims that the two are essentially one and the same thing. that its internet browser is an integral part of Windows, and that anyone who installs Windows must therefore also install Microsoft Explorer. Rival browser suppliers say Microsoft is attempting to use its near complete monopoly of the PC operating system market to dominate the quite separate and distinct market for browsers, which act as a gateway to the internet.

There has always been a powerful intellectual argument for allowing inventors an extended period of copyright over their inventions. Windows is undoubtedly Microsoft's invention, and there is no obvious reason why policy makers should yet be interfering with the company's right to profit from it. But internet browsers are not and it is plainly wrong that Mr Gates be allowed to stifle competition in a different technology in this way.

An obvious, though inexact, parallel in this country is Rupert Murdoch's TV encryption technology, which allows for the operation of subscription TV. It was Mr Murdoch's vision and commercial risk which developed the technology, but should he be allowed to use it as a barrier to entry for other pay TV operators now that digital is about to arrive? Plainly not.

Unfortunately, it is not obvious that the Microsoft problem would be solved even if the courts do succeed in forcing the company to unbundle the Windows and Explorer products. Mr Gates would still be able to cross-subsidise the browser from the monopoly profits of his operating system. An entirely different set of rules and regulations would have to be brought into play to stop him doing that.

There is nothing new about any of these issues. They are as old as the modern-day corporation. But because computer software and pay TV are comparatively recent industries with underdeveloped competition, they are cropping up in complex and unexpected ways. In this country, the new Competition Bill, with its catch-all clauses

Capital Radio's ambitions

yesterday when Margaret

Beckett, President of the

Board of Trade, published

failed bid for Virgin Radio

to expand its radio

interests took a knock

a report suggesting its

would not have been

allowed to go ahead.

Peter Thal Larsen reports

The report, by the Monopolies

and Mergers Commission

(MMC), has no direct impact

on Capital, as DJ Chris Evans'

to deal with abuse of market power, goes some way to an appropriate tightening of the legislation. But until guidlines are published on what constitutes an abuse, we won't know to what extent ministers have ducked the issue.

Tricky time for inflation-busters

For all the talk of global deflation, it is often hard to remember that here in Britain we still have a comparatively high rate of the reverse - price inflation. All the same, we do seem to be moving slowly in the right direction. The latest figures show underlying inflation edging another notch back towards its target. The economy's pace of growth is slowing, and manufacturing output is showing sure signs of suffering from the strong pound. In the background, Asia's turmoil is expected both to keep the global inflation background very subdued and to prevent the Fed from raising US interest rates. All in all, the Monetary Policy Committee must be thinking that the case for not raising interest rates at next month's meeting is starting to look persuasive.

But 1998 could prove tricky for Britain's inflation-busters. The trouble is that inflation is likely to dip below its 2.5 per cent target only briefly before climbing again. The Bank of England's inflation forecast sees this starting in the autumn, although the chart conveniently ends just as the central range of its forecast hits 2.5 per cent again. Other economists reckon it could

MMC report casts doubt on Capital Radio's expansion hopes

an analyst at Panmure Gordon.

advertising and a 46 per cent

share of the national market.

This, the MMC found, would

reduce competition for adver-

The MMC said the merger may be expected to operate

against the public interest" and

recommended it could only go

ahead if Capital sold Capital

Gold, its medium-wave station.

However, the Department

Ginger Productions snatched

Virgin Radio from under the

group's nose in December with

an £85m bid. Nevertheless, it

suggests that Capital Radio

will find it hard to pursue other

London radio stations such as

Melody FM without being

forced to sell parts of its empire.

ering offers for the easy listen-

ing station from a range of radio

groups including Emap, GWR

larger audience than Virgin,

however, the MMC would be al-

most certain to block a Capital

bid. "It now seems unlikely that

As Melody has a slightly

and Scottish Radio.

Hanson is currently consid-

happen sooner. In fact, seven out of 31 City forecasters reckon underlying inflation will be back above target before the end of this year. Some time in 1998 there could well be an unhappy situation with growth slowing quite sharply and inflation heading higher equally smartly.

Obviously any forecast is highly vulnerable to events. What happens will depend on how quickly the economy slows, the exchange rate, how high pay settlements climb during the current round, and how much world price levels weaken. The inflation pessimists might well turn out to be

On the other hand, the Bank's own inflation forecasts have turned out to be consistently over-optimistic. What if the figures show it is still under-estimating inflation as the months go by? It is one thing to take the unpopular step of raising interest rates when you have firm evidence that growth is very robust, but what about doing so when growth is clearly slowing?

Hypothetical worries like this do not change the calculation next month. Events and figures since the last meeting suggest, so far, that the balance has tilted away from announcing another rate rise. Moreover, the policy always has to be to wait and see in the sense that it is impossible to map out the entire future profile for interest rates on the basis of what might happen to the economy meanwhile. Even so, the Bank's experts - and the wider range of members due to be appointed to the Court - need to be prepared for the worst outcome as

ICI names new chairman as Sir Ronnie prepares to go

ICI yesterday announced the departure of its chairman Sir Ronnie Hampel next year as part of a boardroom shake-up which is likely to see the Dulux paints and speciality chemicals group being run by outsiders for the first time in its 72-year history. Michael Harrison

Sir Ronnie, who joined ICI in 1955 as a commercial trainee, will step down in April next year to be replaced as chairman by ICT's chief executive, Charles Miller Smith, who joined the group from Unilever two years ago.

At the same time, ICl is bringing in a senior executive from the newly formed drinks giant Diageo, Brendan O'Neill, as chief operating officer. Mr O'Neill, who is presently chief executive of Guinness, the brewing arm of Diageo, will be groomed to take up the vacant chief executive's post at ICI.

The boardroom changes demonstrate the way ICI's corporate culture and management structure are being overhauled to mirror its transformation from a bulk chemicals business into one focused on consumer brands such as paint

and speciality chemicals. In the space of the last year ICI has raised £3.7bn from disposals, selling large parts of its industrial chemicals and tioxide businesses to Du Pont of the US, and has completed the £4.7bn acquisition of Unilever's speciality chemicals division, which makes products such as starches and food flavourings.

The controlling

shareholders in Liberty,

the upmarket retailer,

boardroom clear-out of

all the directors who did

not support them in

their recent coup that

led to the removal of

yesterday forced a



Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive who will become chairman in April 1999 (right), with Brendan O'Neill, who has been appointed chief operating officer from next May

Both Mr Miller Smith and Mr O'Neill have strong backgrounds in marketing and consumer brands. Mr O'Neill is the first main board director to quit Diageo, the drinks Goliath created last month with the £23bn merger of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness.

He joined Guinness 10 years ago as a financial controller in the wake of the share support scandal and was promoted to head

up the brewing business five years ago. There he transformed the black stout into a powerful international brand, opening Guinness pubs from China to Iceland, expanding its UK market share and introducing Kilkenny, a new Irish ale. A spokesman for Diageo said: This is a sad day but when somebody is offered a job like the head

of ICI it is hard to refuse." Colin Storm, the deputy chief executive of Guinness Brewing, has been named as Mr O'Neill's successor.

Sir Ronnie, who became chief executive of ICI in 1993 following the Zeneca demerger and chairman two years later, said: "ICI is a totally different animal from what it was five years ago.... We have now put in place a management team that will carry ICI forward for the next 10 years." Outlook, this page

were incensed at the move.

which they say may further

erode shareholder value. One

senior fund manager said: "I

find the whole thing absolute-

ly bizarre. It is tarcical and, I

shareholders clearing out the

board, when the company is at

a critical stage in its develop-

ment. There is no chief execu-

tive and morale must be at rock

bottom. Who would want to

come in as chief executive. If

you came in wearing the wrong

colour tie, you could be

"We have a majority of the

think, without precedent.

Liberty investors force board clear-out

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Capital would be allowed to bid of Trade and Industry stopped for Melody," said Paul Richards, short of saying it would have definitely blocked the deal. Margaret The report found that al-Beckett said: "In the unlikely lowing the bid would have event that the proposed merger given Capital 68.8 per cent of were to be reactivated, I should the London market for radio wish to consider further what

action, if any, should be taken."

In a statement. Capital Radio said that it had "the headroom under the Radio Autising and probably raise rates. thority ownership rules to expand in radio within the UK". The company plans to discuss the report with the Radio Authority and the Office of Fair Trading before deciding on any future moves. Capital Radio shares firmed 5p to 520p.

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> the chairman, Denis Cassidy. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports on a battle some institutions are calling farcical'.

The company's advisers have also resigned, leaving Liberty facing costly compensation payments and yet another "fundamental strategic review". The move has left Liberty without a single executive director after Andrew Garety, who was appointed chairman only last month, resigned along with managing director lan Thomson.

The two non-executive directors. Brian Perry and Evic Soames, have also quit.

The four directors took the decision after being placed in an impossible position by the rebel investors, who include Bryan Myerson, the South African investor, and the founding Stewart-Liberty family. They requisitioned an emergency meeting to remove them.

As the rebels, backed by the Merchant Navy Pension Fund, spoke for 52 per cent of the votes, it made the outcome a foregone conclusion.

Mr Thomson and Mr Garety had supported Mr Cassidy's plans to spend £43m on redeveloping Liberty's flagship store on London's Regent Street. a project which the founding family feels is too costly. The two executive direc-

tors were both on two-year fixed contracts and will be in line for substantial compensation. Mr Thomson can expect almost £300,000 while Mr Garety is in line for more than £200,000. Mr Cassidy could receive £150,000. It is understood that Mr Garety and Mr Thomson will remain to ensure an orderly handover but they will not be operating on a fulltime basis.

The group's entire advisory team, including Barings, Cazenove and Slaughter & May, served notice to quit, fulfilling a promise made before Christmas if Mr Cassidy was removed

Other institutional investors

Liberty did make one appointment vesterday. It has recruited Philip Bowman as non-executive chairman. Mr Bowman is a former finance director of Bass who has been working in Australia with Coles

chucked out."

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Retail sector looks fragile

It has been a strange few weeks for UK retailers. In mid-December the doomsayers held sway amid fears of a Christmas sales slump. But the first crop of trading statements from retailers such as John Lewis, Kingfisher and Signet suggest that the pessimism may have been overdone.

The question now is whether at this halfway stage in the high street reporting season, the mood has swung too far the other way. Christmas this year appears to have been rescued by a late spending surge and it is possible that the sales increases being reported may well have been achieved by offering big discounts which will affect margins.

Investors should note that groups such as Sears. Laura Ashley and Argos have yet to report. Sentiment could look very different in a few weeks' time. Most analysts feel that with higher interest rates biting, retailers will find it hard to outperform. Caution remains the watchword.

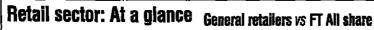
The sector already has a rather fragile feel. The UK general retailer sector fell by 8.5 per cent against the market last year, hampered by some truly dreadful performances. Laura Ashley was the worst, underperforming by a thumping 82 per cent, followed by Oasis (71 per cent). Harvey Nichols (54 per cent) and Sears (54.5 per cent).

Only two big groups managed double-digit outperformance - Boots and Kingfisher. Both reported trading updates yesterday and even one of this leading duo managed to disappoint. Boots' figures prompted analysts to downgrade their full-year figures while Kingfisher's bullish figures fuelled upgrades.

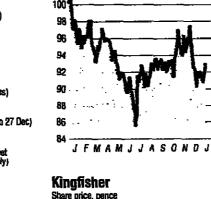
It seems clear that Kingfisher's B&Q chain is trouncing all others in the DIY market, hence the muted performance at Boots' Do It All. The Kingfisher-owned Superdrug is also recording strong sales gains, some of which may be coming at the expense of Boots the Chemists. On shares are still very highly rated and there is no room for disappointment.

Kingfisher looks better value and Société Générale Strauss Turnbull now has a target price of £10 against to UK businesses in 1996, behind BT yesterday's 912p (up 27p).

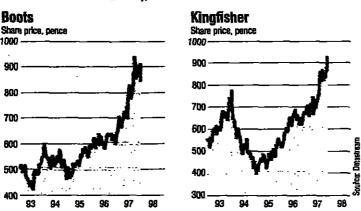
Given that the sector seems unlikely







Index, January 1997=100



to select stocks that could benefit from company-specific changes. Arcadia, the Burton multiples business could see an upturn after the demerger. WH Smith could also see demerger benefits. And Aliders remains underrated, even after its good run last year.

SDX plugs into telecoms market

When the telecom industry becoming increasingly global, it's hard to imagine any small company taking on the giant equipment suppliers and winning. But that's precisely what SDX Busidowngraded forecasts of £540m Boots ness Systems, a telecom equipment minnow which floated at 160p just a year ago, has done. According to industry watcher Dataquest, SDX was the third-largest supplier of equipment and Siemens, the German electronics giant. The year before, it was 1 ith. And to outperform in 1998, investors need judging by the 38 per cent jump in pre-

tax profits in the year to last October. that growth is continuing.

Credit for this goes to Index. SDX's new digital-switching product which allows companies to have voicemail, Internet access and data transmission on their telephone exchange. The system is also capable of integrating a company's telephone and computer networks - the muchheralded "convergence" that tele-

Hence SDX is taking market share profits. - it has about 9 per cent of the market and can see that rising to the mid-teens in the next few years. But taking into account all the new features year to April followed by IR£19.7m and it is adding to Index, their available market is also growing at a fair lick. prospective p/e ratio of 13 falling to 11. It also has plenty of scope to take its The hotel market is notoriously cyclical products overseas. International sales are just 11 per cent of the total. If SDX steam for some while. can find the right partners in the US. France and Germany that should rise than 60 per cent in the hands of the 10

tention of the big boys by sticking to ever, the stock does not look expensmall and medium-sized firms, which sive. Buy.

means no more than 300 extensions on the telephone system. The danger is that as it becomes larger competitors will sit up and take notice. But on profit forecasts of £5.3m the shares, down 1.5p to 229p yesterday, are on a forward multiple of 23. For this impressive little business, that's worth paying.

Investors keen to book in at Jurys

Judging by the strength of the Irish economy, it is easy to see why investors are keen to book into Jurys Hotel at the moment. Shares in the Dublinbased hotel operator jumped 27.5p to a new peak of 400p following a 26 per cent increase in turnover and a 36 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to IR£10.76m (£9.10m), comfortably above forecasts, for the six months to 31 October.

Now it plans an assault on the UK market, which is also going great guns at the moment. Its next hotel is due to open in fashionable Islington in Mav. A 190-bed conversion in Edinburgh is due to open this summer, and a proposed 250-bed development in Manchester is awaiting planning permission. When these are completed up to two-fifths of the business could come from the UK.

Turnover benefited from the buoyant hotel sector both sides of the Irish Sea and its rapid opening programme. Margins were fattened by an average 8 per cent rise in room rates on an occupancy rate marginally up on last year at 82 per cent. The figures also benefit from the strength of sterling, which added about £300,000 in the half com industry gurus regularly predict. year and should continue to help

Brokers in Dublin have revised full-year forecasts upwards from IR£16.5m to around IR£17.6m for the in 1998-99. That puts the shares on a but does not look like running out of

Jurys is tightly held, with more largest holders, which often makes So far, SDX has escaped the at- share price movements lumpy. How-

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



Good to hear that Graham Ward, the former Oxford boxing blue, is set to be president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales in the year 2000.

Perhaps the 45-year-old Price Waterhouse partner should rename himself "Millennium" Ward. Under the Institute's arcane rules, once someone is nominated by the eight-strong council to become vice-president, they then automatically become deputy president a year later and full president the year after that.

A spokeswoman for the Institute commented. "Mr Ward will have to box clever with Dame Sheila Masters, the current vice-president", referring to the bitter election the duo fought last year, which she won. The spokeswoman added: "He's quite a heavyweight."

Mr Ward, currently deputy chairman of PW's World Energy Group, is confident that any friction with Dame Sheila last year is over. We worked together at the London Society of Chartered Accountants in the 1980s. I'm sure we will do the mature, proper thing and work together," he said.

And his ambitions for the millennium? "To get a sensible outcome to the audit liability debate." Makes the Dome sound positively scintillating. He also wants to improve the public image of accountants.

"People tend to think that auditing is all about fusty old people in fusty old rooms," he said. Er, ves. Isn't it?

A former principal private secretary to three former chancellors, Nigel Lawson, John Major and Norman Lamont, has just been appointed director of the Treasury's Budget and Public Finances Directorate.

In a classic show of civil service continuity, John Gieve, 47, will succeed Paul Gray, when Mr Grav moves to the Department of Social Security after the Budget. Mr Gieve's new job is, very crudely, to help draft the next Budget. Our man is currently the deputy director in the Treasury with responsibility for general

expenditure policy, including the management of the Comprehensive Spending Review. He began his climb up the civil service ladder in the Department of Employment and joined the Treasury at the end of 1978.

In 1982-84 he rose to Sir Humphrey-status when he was made private secretary to the chief secretary (first Leon Brittan and then Peter Rees). He spent the following two years making money at Investors in Industry, now 3i, before returning to Whitehall as the Treasury's press secretary. Then came his period as confessor to successive chancellors.

Patrick Crean is off to do his own thing after six years with Adare Printing Group, the Dublin-based printing group which does most of its business in the UK. Although only 34, Mr Crean has 14 years' experience in the printing industry and is now looking for a UK printer to buy, for around £10m, according to colleagues. Peter Lynch, finance director at Adare, says

that Mr Crean spent most of his time moving around the businesses in the UK, where 13 of Adare's 16 businesses are based. Mr Lynch said: Paddy's biggest success was turning around the Waddington printing business we bought from John Waddington, the Monopoly company. Paddy took it from losing £2.5m to making a profit of £3m in just over two years."

Mr Crean was made a director of Adare four and a half years ago. Before joining Adare he spent eight years with Clondalkin, a printing group which used to own a big mill in Clondalkin, Dublin, before the latter went

Anthony Muller, senior vice-president and chief financial officer with the Anglo-American software developer Micro Focus Group, has resigned from the company to join another business in California.

Micro Focus has its headquarters in Newbury in England and its other office in Palo Alto, in California's Silicon Valley. Mr Muller is joining another, as yet un-named, company with which he has been associated for around

Micro Focus says it intends to announce a replacement shortly, probably with the annual results on 4 March, and during the interim period, the company's vice president, general counsel and secretary, Loren Hillberg, will essume Mr Muller's role.

Mr Muller was very much associated with Marcele Gumocio, who was brought in as chief executive of the company in April 1996 to rescue it from drowning in losses. Mr Gumucio appointed Mr Muller as effective finance director in September 1996, and then left last July after returning Micro to profit.

Micro's new chief executive Martin Waters said yesterday: "The company is confident that it will meet its revenue and profit plans for the remainder of this fiscal year and believes it will continue to grow in both revenue and profits for the coming fiscal year."

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

£10 Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.







Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT Valid between Saturday January 10th and Friday January 16th

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Bluebird 350 King's Road. London, SW3 5UU 0171 559 1000

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Café The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SEI 0171 378 7031

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm*

Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill 36d Shad Thames, London, SEI 2YE Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm -7pm

Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, WIV 3LE

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm dosed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SWIY 6AL

Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm Zinc Bar & Grill 2! Heddon Street, London, WIR 7LF

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants Closed from 6pm on Sunday Offer not available after 6pm on February (4)

The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and 7pm

between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 1 pm*

Rail chairman attacks privatised performance

John Welsby, chairman of British Rail, which is now a holding company for unsold assets, last night attacked the privatised railway industry in a lecture to industry professionals. Mr Welsby, who is advising the Government on re-regulating the nation's railways, said: "Performance, far from continuing to improve, has actually deteriorated. The failings are not isolated local ones, but are spread across the country."

Performance on many of the railway's highest-profile routes had been poor, he said. West Coast, run by Virgin, and Great Western, bought out by its management, had run fewer trains on time than under BR. The rail industry had to "start producing tangible benefits for the travelling public from the funds that are flowing into it".

Merger decision awaited

Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy and management consultancy firms, expect to be told next week whether the European Commission intends to carry out a detailed investigation of their proposed merger. This emerged as the firms refused to comment on reports that the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry had added their concerns about the planned consolidation in the accountancy profession to those already expressed by the Financial Services Authority, and Iosco, the organisation of world stock market regulators.

German jobless figure up

The number of people employed in Germany has fallen to its lowest level since reunification in 1990. About 34 million people were employed in Germany during 1997, 1.3 per cent lower than in 1996, according to the Federal Bureau of Statistics. Unemployment reached its highest level since reunification, with almost 4.4 million people without work.

Northern Leisure soars

Shares in Northern Leisure, the nightclub owner, jumped 40p to 459.5p after it announced profits for the six months to March up 89 per cent to £7m. The fast-growing group is also raising £20.6m from a share placing to fund an ambitious expansion programme that is likely to make it the largest nightclub owner

£150m PW case opens

Bank Austria, one of Europe's biggest banks, opened its claim for almost £150m in damages against Price Waterhouse in the High Court in London yesterday. The case, which is expected to last at least 12 weeks, alleges that PW failed to spot serious problems at Sovereign Leasing, a UK leasing company in which it acquired a majority stake in 1990.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bespak (1)	42.3m (39 4m)	6.5m (5.0m)	18.8µ (13.3p)	5.10p (4.62p)
Debenhams Tenson (I)	36.73m (30 30m)	3 16m (1.86m)	4.26p (2.44p)	1.3p (0.9p)
Dunhams Electrical (F)	63.25m (50.93m)	3.43m (2.4m)	13.66р (9.06р)	2.3p (3.0p)
Jurys Hotel Group (1)	Ir97.1m (29.30m)	110.78 (7.92m)	19.0p (14.5p)	3.12p (2.5p)
SDX Businesz Systems (F) 45.31 (33.17m)	4.36m (3 16m)	B.4p (7.0p)	2.4p (-)
Stendor (1)	tr 0.125m (-)	1.62m (0.449m)	19.4p (10.29p)	(-) (-)

Brussels backs S&N tied pubs

The European Commission yesterday gave its biggest endorsement yet of the British tied-pub system. Scottish & Newcastle, Britain's biggest brewer, has been given the provisional all-clear to operate a tie, under which it requires tenants to buy its own beers in return for lower rents and discounts. The announcement comes in the wake of the Commission's preliminary decision to allow Whitbread to keep its tied leases.

However, pub owners still face a battle over allegations by tenants who say they were forced to accept unfair ties. Brussels' approval of the tied system has proved unpopular with many tenants who are fighting a rearguard action to have the decision overturned. More than 90 of Whitbread's tenants are believed to have lodged a complaint to Brussels, claiming that figures provided by the brewing group do not give a fair reflection of the benefits available to them under the tied system.

Legal action from Inntrepreneur pub tenants against the tie is also set to burst into the open this year. Inntrepreneur, now owned by Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, has been forced to withdraw its application to the Commission to have old tied agreements ratified, due to pressure from disgruntled tenants who have complained vociferously to Brussels.

Julian Maitland Walker, a solicitor representing Inntrepreneur tenant groups, said yesterday: "We are hoping to put several test cases before the High Court this year. This [European Commission] decision does not vindicate the entire tied-pub system, only those that can demonstrate that benefits available compensate fully for having the tie."

However, the decision is good news for small brewers and hundreds of village pubs which, according to the Campaign for Real Ale, could have gone out of business if the tied system was outlawed.

British Midland wants BA slots to go to European rivals

British Midland yesterday called on Brussels to force British Air- ence between the two - 82 ways and American Airlines to hand over slots at Heathrow to operate five extra round trips a rival European airlines as the day from Heathrow-should be price for allowing their transatlantic alliance to proceed.

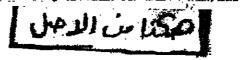
In a letter to Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, British Midland's chairman, Sir Michael Bishop, said if the tie-up went ahead it was important to preserve competition on both transatlantic and European routes.

The European Commission is expected to require BA-AA to surrender about 250 take-off and landing slots in return for approving the alliance. The UK's Office of Fair Tracing has recommended that the two carriers competing services.

Sir Michael said the differslots or enough capacity to allocated to carriers operating European routes. He argued that unless there

were more European feeder services into Heathrow, there would not be sufficient numbers of passengers to support new airlines entering the US-Heathrow market in competition to BA-AA. Sir Michael also claimed that

whereas many transatlantic routes were already highly competitive, with four airlines vying for passengers, some European routes were less well served. For instance, only one other flag carrier competes with BA on give up 168 slots to enable rival services from Heathrow to Rome transatlantic carriers to start Fiumicino, Milan and Munich Michael Harrison



Wolseley tumbles as Footsie manages an unconvincing rise

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Wolseley, the building mate- largely unimpressed by a firm 501.25p as chairman Sir Iain their poise, and with the crude Paribas and Sutherlands was year and from £30.5m to pressure, tumbling 41p to 466p as at least one investment house suggested the shares were too high.

SG Securities, the old Société Générale Strauss about its US and European exposure. There was talk BZW had also turned cautious.

Howard Proctor, SG's analyst, has not changed his £279m profits forecast for the year ending July. Last time the company, with an impressive record, produced £261.2m. But he said: The shares do not deserve their premium rating".

535p peak, up from 425.5p in the summer.

ket managed to close with a The foundation still has more plus but it was a far from con- than 3 per cent of GUS. The vincing performance. Footsie, price was at one time down at one time up 41.1 points, ended 15.1 higher at 5,083.9,

New York and a modest Far Eastern revival.

Retailers were mixed. Kingfisher climbed 27p to a 912p peak after a relatively cheerful festive trading report but Boots gave up 58p to major account. Turnbull, expressed worries 847p as its trading review failed to meet best expectations. Anxiety about Dixons, reporting today, and Argos, on Friday, softened the shares 4p

to 582p and 7p to 543p re-

spectively.

Great Universal Stores was the most heavily traded share. Cazenove and Morgan Stan-36.76 million shares at 719p. In October they touched a They paid 712.5p a share to the vendor, the Wolfson Foundation, which supports educa-The rest of the stock mar-tional and medical research.

> 31p; it ended 22p off at 731p. BT was little changed at National, recovered some of

12p to 253p on rumours one of its subsidiaries has lost a

Micro Focus, the computer group which has had a heady romp, fell 40p to 2,550p as chief financial officer Tony Muller quit. In July chief executive Marcelo Gumicio departed shortly after cashing in share options.

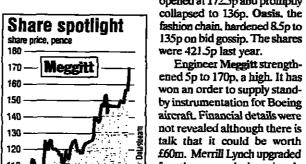
BSkyB fell 14p to 418p with Credit Lyonnais Laing ley placed with institutions cautious. The company said it was on track for a digital television launch in the second quarter of this year. EMI slipped 11p to 488p.

> exposure to Asia, and Nat West Securities rates the shares no more than a hold. Financials, led by Abbey

The showbiz group has a high

Vallance sold 140,000 shares at price firming, oils improved, another influence. with British Petroleum in the WPP, the advertising forefront. Billiton continued group, weakened a further to suffer from weak metal prices, off a further 6p at

> Imperial Chemical Industries greeted a new chief operating officer, Brendan O'Neill, from Guinness, with a 9p plus to 934p. Buy advice from investment houses



100

Creative Publishing, the greeting card group spun off in October, firmed 2p to 151p. There is talk that a big US greeting cards group is anxious to develop its operations this side of the Atlantic and is casting its slide-rule over CP. The shares have had an eventful time since the demerger. They opened at 172.5p and promptly collapsed to 136p. Oasis, the fashion chain, hardened 8.5p to

were 421.5p last year. Engineer Meggitt strengthened 5p to 170p, a high. It has won an order to supply standby instrumentation for Boeing aircraft. Financial details were not revealed although there is talk that it could be worth danced 40p higher to a 459.5p £60m. Merrill Lynch upgraded peak in response to a forecast for the second time in six

around £35m for this year.

Environed, the little health care group where takeover from Fine Art Developments action is expected, held at 8p. Equitable Life Assurance has sold its 2.5 per cent stake.

Emerald Energy ended 0.75p higher at 8p, equalling its peak, as excitement bubbled about its deep drilling operation in Colombia. Turnover was again beavy.

Deltron Electronics duly produced a bullish trading statement. It is trading ahead of budget, underpinning profit forecasts of £3.3m for the year. The shares rose 12.5p to 140p.

John Mansfield, the little timber group set for a revamp, rose 0.5p to 9.25p. A deal is near. Northern Leisure, the discotheques chain, of an 89 per cent profits jump, months. It is has moved to which accompanied another £30m from £28.5m for last cash-raising exercise.

TAKING STOCK

Pemberstone has completed its third building society property buy in three weeks. Latest involved 46 residential properties in Kent and cost £1.5m. The company buys occupied properties (often repossessions), collects rents until the tenant leaves and then sells at a premium. It also offers an escape route for business expansion schemes. Profits in 1996 were £2.1m; a sharp improvement is expected. The shares rose 4.5p to 59p.

ML Laboratories gained 11p to 120p, against a 468.5p peak. City presentations start this week. Chairman Kevin Leech is keen to bring the group's accounting policy more in line with other biotechs and appoint more non-executive directors.

Foreigo & Colonial Enterprise Trust jumped 23p to 222p. It has 6.9 per cent of Computacentre, valued at £25m. Asset value is put at 204p.

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No decorum at the forum as Wakeham walks

The turf war at the **British Horseracing** Board claimed its first significant victim yesterday when Lord Wakeham, the BHB chairman, resigned.

Greg Wood reports on a departure which was sudden, but not unexpected.

There is never a good time for a billion-pound business to lose its chairman, but 24 hours before its AGM is possibly the worst moment of all. The annual Industry Committee Forum, which is as close as the racing shareholders, will take place as nomic circumstances."

planned in London this mornthe man who was supposed to be in charge.

Lord Wakeham decided that his two-and-a-half year tenure continue when his colleagues around the top table decided to try gather to hear the plan for endorse Peter Savill's longawaited financial plan for rac-

"I have today resigned as chairman and director of the British Horseracing Board as I was unable to agree with the financial plan put before the Board this morning," Wakeham said in a statement yesterday. "In my opinion, the plan is unindustry gets to a meeting of its realistic in the current eco-

Wakeham and Savill have very nicely indeed out of offing, but it will be overshadowed been sniping at each other for by the resignation yesterday of weeks, in particular following a leak of details of the plan late last year. As parting shots go, Wakeham's withering dismissal of Savill's work was a beauty, as chairman of the British since it will be plastered over the Horseracing Board could not trade papers as representatives from all sections of the indus-

themselves this morning. When its author takes the ing, which will be unveiled at the stage to argue his case, the impression that racing lives in a world of its own will be stronger than ever.

Apparently, Savill will argue that an extra £105m needs to be injected into the industry, much of which he expects to arrive via a reduction in the Government's rake-off from betting turnover. While no-one can deny that the Exchequer does

course gambling - to the tune of more than £300m each year - Wakeham is clearly dubious as to whether a Government which has just removed benefits from single mothers is likely to divert funds towards what is felt to be a rich man's hobby.

RICHARD EDMONDSON **NAP: Sualtach** (Wolverhampton 3.10) NB: Ragamuff (Folkestone 3.30)

He is almost certainly correct, although it must also be pointed out that this dispute comes at a very convenient moment for Wakeham. He has been under pressure for months from many quarters, most nolably Sheikh Mohammed, a former Tory chief whip and

string of other posts. Wakeham collects jobs the way some people collect stamps, and the last time anyone counted, he had a total of 14. He is the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, and fills the

ame role at Vosper Thomycroft

Holdings plc, the Kalon Group

and the Carlton Club. He is also a non-executive director of several other companies, including N M Rothschild and the Bristol & West Building Society, not to mention the Chancellor of Brunel Univer-

The baggage of his former career also weighs him down. As whose now famous Gimerack committed henchman of Mar-

Dinner speech expressed surgaret Thatcher, Wakeham lost mains to be seen, although Sir prise that the BHB chairman what political clout he still had Thomas Pilkington, a former secould find enough time in his with the arrival of the Labour nior steward of the Jockey. schedule to accommodate a administration.

Even the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, which originally nominated Wakeham to a position on the board of the BHB, seemed to have turned against him Yet rather than suffer the

which finally claimed his beloved Margaret, Wakeham can now turn on his heels with his honour relatively intact. The chance of racing receiving even a fraction of the sum which Savill is expecting is practically nil, but it will be left to comeone else to deal with the fallout when the truth finally dawns on a fractured and dis-

illusioned industry. Precisely who that will be re-

Club, has taken over as BHB chairman on a temporary basis. "I want to emphasise that the whole BHB and all sectors of the industry are united in supporting the new financial plan." he said yesterday. "It is a comprehensive and carefully argued review of racing's position ... sort of humiliating departure

and we look forward to a con-

structive dialogue with the gov-

erament on it."

Just how united the racing industry really is behind the Savill plan will become clear at the Industry Committee Forum this morning. At the same event a year ago, the bad blood between Wakeham and Savill first bechairman made a pointed reference to Savill's tax status.

Twelve months before that, the proceedings were dominated by the messy (but entertaining) saga of Matthew McCloy's trip to the Breeders' Cup (the Industry Committee chairman, you may recall, was not just wearing his seat belt when the plane landed, but handcuffs too).

Both will be difficult acts to come apparent when the BHB follow, but this latest Forum may well turn out to be the

Celebre earns place among greats

Peintre Celebre's victory in the Alleged in 1978 might be con- ré, who for the second year run-Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe vesterday earned him the mantle 1997. The French colt tops the International Classifications second highest since their in-

cent Arc winners only Dancing sudski ran to 128 in that race." Brave, who achieved 141 in

Second Empire (A P O'Brien/h) 8st 13b

Embassy (Saeed bin Suroor) 8st 12b

Charge D'Affaires (A de R-Dupre/Fr) 8st 10to

Lend A Hand (M Johnston) 8st 10fb

Saratoga Springs (A P O'Brien/irl) 8st 10lb

Crazee Mental (D Haydn Jones) 6st 7to

Xaar (A Fabre/Fr)

4.00

Central Park (P Cole)

Daggers Drawn (H Cecil)

Mudeer (Seeed bin Suroor)

Princely Heir (M Johnston)

Loving Claim (Mrs C Head/Fr)

Tamarisk (R Charlton)

Hayii (Mrs D Morley)

Muhtathir (J Gosden)

Mutamam (A Stewart)

Boild Fact (H Cecil)

Carrowkeel (B Hills)

Midnight Line (H Cecil)

Thief Of Hearts (A Fabre/Fr)

Harbour Master (A P O'Brien/Iri) 8st 5lb

King Of Kings (A P O'Brien/Irl) 8st 5lb

Special Quest (Mrs C Head/Fr) 8st 5lb

Alboostan (Mrs D Morley)

Designer (J Gosden)

Glorosia (L Cumani)

Hatmahara (1 Balding)

Little Indian (S Woods)

Second Empire (A P O'Bnen, Irl King Of Kings (A P O'Snen, Irl)

Saratoga Springs (A P O'Bren, M)

Fantasy Island (Sased bin Surport

Horse (Trainer)

Xeer (A Fabre, Fr)

Tamerisk (R Charlton)

Hassei & Duntool

Daggers Drawn (H Cecil)

Zaya (Saeed Inn Suroor)

Central Park (P Cols)

Fleetwood (H Cecil)

La-Fasab (B HBS)

Horse (Trainer)

Jibe (H Cecil)

Badır (8 Hills)

Glorosia (L.Cumani)

Cape Verdi (Saeed bin Surcor)

Loving Claim (Mrs C Head. Fr)

Le Nuit Rose (Seed by Suror)

Midnight Line (H Cecil)

Docksider (J Hills)

sidered his equal.

Nigel Gray, the British of world champion racehorse of Horseracing Board handicapper, explained how Peintre Celebre achieved his rating of with a rating of 137, the joint 137. He said: "Pilsudski was tremendously consistent. He frequently ran to 128. If you look Peintre Celebre is rated the at the Arc and the other horsequal of Generous, the Euro- es they all fit. There are lots of Zafonic achieved in 1992 places pean champion of 1991. Of re- lines of form which suggest Pil-

Peintre Celebre remains in 1986, has been rated superior training this year as a four-yearand among earlier winners only old under his trainer André Fab-

rating difference

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Top 30 Two-year-olds

Handicap weight rating

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2,000 Guineas Stakes (Im) Consi William Hill

Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Newmarket, Saturday, 2 May)

Oaks Stakes (Im 4f)

Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Epsom, Friday, 5 June)

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European Free Official Independent

ning has more horses in the Classifications than anyone else. He also trains the champion

two-year-old in Xaar, who becomes the 10th Dewhurst Stakes the juvenile ratings. The 2000 Guineas favourite's final mark of 127, 21h higher than his sire him among an élite band of nine horses to be rated above 126. Matthew Tester, the two-

year-old handicapper, explained how he arrived at Xaar's rating after the Dewhurst Stakes. He said: "Xaar, in beating a horse rated 115, Tamarisk, comes out at 127. Allowing 2lb for a length over seven furlongs it would be possible to rate him higher but it's not a straight line equation. You are dealing with a horse not yet at full maturity. In any other handicap I'd be unlikely to call seven lengths more than 12lb for a two-year-old.

In the older horse division. Michael Stoute is dominant

with the Japan Cup winner Pilsudski (134) edging out his stablemate Singspiel (132). Pilsudski, who won the Eclipse as well as the Champion Stakes in Ireland and England, ran to winner in the last 20 years to top a rating of 124 or over on seven of his eight starts last year. He has shown 8lb improvement from four to five years. and 40lb since he was three. Singspiel's campaign included three Group One successes and his victory in the Dubai World

> America's Gentlemen on dirt. The Cheveley Park winner Embassy became the trainer David Loder's second champion two-year-old filly on 118, Compton Place, Elnadim and Royal Applause share the sprinting honours on 121 and the Breeders' Cup winner Spinning World took the mile championship with 126.

Cup ranked him second only to

The Melbourne Cup winner Might And Power finished leading staver on 124. Classic Cliche (121) is top European stayer.

Bahr has form to pull rank

Classification for two-year-olds. in which he is rated 8lb clear of Second Empire. Independent ratings, which assess both form and time performances, reach a similar conclusion, while placing Xaar on a higher overall mark, 130.

It is harder to concur with the official assessments of Central Park And Daggers Drawn, whose Dewhurst Stakes flops have been ignored in the Classification. They are placed ahead of Tamarisk, who beat with Godolphin, she looks them at Newmarket. Conversely, the handicappers seem

Xaar's ascendancy over his gen- to have ignored the best runs by eration has gained due recog- Arkadian Hero and King Of

> The greatest divergence between The Independent's ratings and the International Classification concerns the unbeaten Bahr, rated only 106 in the official rankings. She would deserve better on her bare form against the smart Fruits Of Love. Quiet Assurance and City Honours in the Washington Singer Stakes. But the exceptional time of Bahr's debut win at Doncaster, rated 121, suggests she is top-class. Now tailor-made for the Oaks. - Luke Ardlev

1,000 G	uineas	Stakes ((im)	
Horse (Traner)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
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Loving Claim (Ms C Head Fr)	6-1	6-1	7-1	5-
Cape Verdi (Sased bri Suroori	12-1	B -1	10-1	8-
Jihe (H Cecil)	70-1	14-1	10-7	14-
Astyranikat (J Duntop)	20-1	16-1	25-1	14-
Giorosia (L. Cumani)	doubilui	25-1	25-1	_25-
Woodland Malody (P Chapple Hyam)	25-1	16-1	20-1	12-
Bahr (S Hills)	33-1	25-1	25-1	20-1
Exclusive (M. Secule)	25-1	33-1	25-1	33-1
Possoon (H Cecil)	33-1	40-1	25-1	:
Doomra (E Durico)	33-1	33-1	. 3 -1	50-1

Derl	by Stak	ces (Im 4	f)	
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
Second Empire (A P O'Bren, M)	E-1	41	5-1	B-1
Xaer (A Fabre, Fr)	10-1	B-1	7-1	10-1
City Honours (P Chapple-Hyam)	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1
Saratoga Springs (A P O'Bner, H)	25-1	20-1	16-1	25-1
Fleetwood (H Cecil)	25-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Teapot Row (J Toler)	30-1	20-T	25-1	16-1
Central Park (P Cole)	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Micernam (A Stewart)	33-1	20-1	25-1	20-1

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

1.00 REWARD (nap) .30 All Clear 2.00 Mega Tid 2.30 Credo Is King

3.00 August Tweifth 3.30 San Fernando 4.00 Crazy Crusader

GOING: Crase course: Good to Soft; Furdic course: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand, undusting course with a run-in of one furtiong.

Course is 6m west of town off A20. Westerhanger rail station (service from London, Channg Cross) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersale 210 (under-16s free). CAR PARK: Pricinc car park fX plus 64 per occupant); remainder free.

LEADING TRIAINERS: J Gifford 16-85 (24.6%), D Grissell 11-84 (17.2%), N Henderson 8-25 (23%), R Rowe 7-60 (11.7%), R Aliner 6-34 (17.6%), M Pipe 8-36 (16.7%),

LEADING JOCKEYS: M A Fritzgerald 10-48 (20.6%), D Bridgwater 8-24 (33.3%), R Dumwoody 8-46 (17.4%) B Fernton 6-34 (25%), N Williamson 6-38 (55.4%).

FAVOURITES: 101 wins from 238 races (42.4%).

VISORERED FIRST TIME: Challenger Row (130).

GOING: Chase course: Good to Soft; Hurdle course: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

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1	יייוו		VALENTINE GORTON MAIDEN HURDLE (C £2,900 added 4YO 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value	£2,610
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ı			MASTER BOBBY (F57) (Richard J Gurr) R Flower 11 5 K	MCCHING (7)
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1	5	5	POKER SCHOOL (34) (D Westey) N Callaghan 11 5	G Bradley
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i	8	5	SUPREMISM (30) (Lady Helan Smith) Mrs D Harre 11 5 15	N Williamson
ł	9	44	THE NEGOTIATOR (30) (F J Sanstury) M Heaton-Bits 11 5	8 Powell
ı	10	04	WESLEY'S LAD (41) (Brian Williams) D Burchel 11 5	_D J Barchell
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ı	BETT	ING:	3-1 Supremism, 7-2 Poker School, 5-1 The Negotistor, 11-2 Regard, 8-	1 Polyphony

BETTING: 3-1 Supremism, 7-2 Poker School, 5-1 The Negotiator, 11-2 Remard, 8-1 Polyphony, 10-1 Foreign Bule, 11-1 Oriental Style, 14-1 Wesley's Lad, 25-1 Golden Saddle, 50-1 others 1997: Desert Mountain 4 1i 5 R Hughes 3-1 (N Callaghan) 12 ran FORM GUIDE.

The Negotiator, a hearistrong sort on the Flat, shaped quite well with his fourth behind the smart Reminator has hearboard behind Virtuoso at Warnwick, where Supremisms was four lengths back in fifth. That was a promising first effort from Supremism, a fair malder on the Flat. He should come on for that and may have the greater scope of the two, through another Rietly to step up on his initial nun is POKER SCHOOL. Largely disappointing on the Flat in this country lest season after winning a nine-furition gmaiden in Ireland, Poker School was easy to back at Falkenham less month on his hurding debut and soon trailed the field. In the end, he made late headway into fifth behind previous winner Mistry Cay without offering the sightest threat and should be able to step up appreciably on that if riciden closer to the pace. Reward didn't come up to expectations in two subsequent outning on the Flat for Paul Cole following a promising introduction. All the same, this well-bred youngster has the build to do well at this game. Polyphony hed the makings of a reasonable middle-distance performer on the Flat for Roger Chariton and is another with the pedigree to make his mark over hurdes. Selection: POKER SCHOOL.

1.30 MANSTON NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,924

ı	2/3P-R	SIERRA BAY (14) (R Waters) O Sherwood 8 t2 0 J A McCert
2	10.72	HEAD FOR HEAVEN (670) (C O'Cornell) R Hosel 8 11 11 F Tible
l	19-655	NORDIC SPREE (13) (John T Jones) G L Moore 6 Tt 1 A P McCoy
:	/300F0	MOST WELCOME NEWS (13) (A S Rest) G L Moore 6 10 9
,	00-765	GEORGETOWN (29) (Paratio, Tapes & Conversions Ltd) J Gifford 7 to 8
,	63313	ALL CLEAR (16) (0) U P M & J W Cook) R Ainer 7 105
•	2.PP-0	KARICLEICH MAN (40) (H.R.C. Cetterwood) P Hobbs 8 10 4
ļ	25-080	CLOCK WATCHERS (60) (W R Share) J Bridger 10 10 3
		JOKER JACK (32) (Richard Dean) R Dean 13 10 0 7 Description
Ū	/P-540	COOL SPOT (25) (Dave Howe) G Enright 10 10 0 R Bellan
1	PP:500	CHALLENGER ROW (14) (D) (No Need To Argue Partners) Mrs. L. Jewell 8 10 0 B Powell
2	00-U	PHILISITATE (25) (Peter Gliespe) J Pirich-Hayes 9 to 0 B Fants
		- 12 declared -

Altraymum werght: 10st. True translicap weights: Challenger Row, Philisates 9st 12th.
BETTING: 5-2 All Clear, 11-4 Sterra Bay, 6-1 Head For Heaven, 7-1 Cool Spot, Karlcleigh Man, 8-1 Georgetown, Nordic Spree, 14-1 Most Welcome, 20-1 Clock Watchers, Joker Jeck, 33-1 others
1897: New Players 8 10 4 D O'Sullivan 16-1 (R Rowe) 13 ran
FORIM GUIDE

A poor race, and one which the distance is woethally inadequate for Jokter Jack yet possibly just too far for Georgetown, who was finishing coming to the second last behind Pegmanne over the course and distance last time out. Silvern Bay, an eight-year-old with only four runs to his name, has shaped like a decent horse in his limited opportunities and went really well when third in a big field of novice hundlers at Huntingdon last season. He made his reappearance in a novice chase at Warrinds at the first jumped alarmangly right when in the lead from the third fence until ducking out before the firth last. That was Serna Bay's first run on a left-hand course and he is evidently happier going clockwise. While that horse could easily run this field ragged if on song. ALL CLEAR gets lumps of weight and has at least proved himself to be retable, if only moderate. All Clear ran his best race since joining present connections when third over an extra five furlongs at Taunton tast time and it seems he is better suited by the minimum trip. Cool Spot was well beaten when left in front two fences out at Lingfield and then tailed to hold Cant Say Karticleigh Man may have more scope, while Head For Heaven is young enough to make a comeback and Nordic Spree should better his first attempt over fences at Windsor on New Year's Day Selection: ALL CLEAR poor race, and one which the distance is woefully inadequate for Joker Jack vet pos

2.00 NORTH FORELAND SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £1,604

		301204	MENIUSE MISE (10) (COAD CIDARY II G M INTER C FO II CARROOM)
	2	024-61	ADILOV (14) (Trevor Machelli J Bridger 6 1) 10
1	3		JOCTOR DON (36) (Mrs Derek Strauss) J S Moore 6 Tl 3
i	4	0-5P26	MEGA TID (F35) (Come Racing Ltd) J Poutton 6 11 3
	5	5-	MOYLOUGH REBEL (424) (Mrs A Warren) J Long 5 tl 3
ı	6		BONNY (GER) (F151) (D.J. Winde) D. Winde 5 to 12
1	7		BURNING FLAME (36) (Jan Reck) # Flower 5 10 T2 J.K. McCertiny (7)
	8	F-45	NORTH END LADY (36) (J.J. Sullivan) Mrs L. Jewell 7 10 12 Mr Edgar Byrne (7)
ı			SWEET LITTLE BRIAR (50) (G C Bravery) G Bravery 7 10 12
ł	10		VITA NUOVA (8) (The Stanton Seven) Mrs C Hicks 7 to 12 L Aspell (3)
ı	Ħ		FLAHNE'S FIRST (29) (Miss N A Showers) D Burchell 4 105
ı	12	43	CADBURY CASTLE (26) (S.P.Tindall) G.Charles-Jones 4 10 0
1	i		- 12 declared =

- 12 declared - 12 declared - 12 declared - 13 declared - 14 declared - 15 declared - 15 declared - 16 declared -

			$\overline{}$
2.30 KENT HANDICAP CHASE 3m 2f Penalty Value £4,024	(CLASS	D) £5,000	added (
3m 2f Penalty Value £4.024		•	
STOLD DALLY OLDED SON MAN STOLL			

<u> 2.30</u>	I MENT MANUICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 15,000 20060
3121.P-	BALLY CLOVER (226) (CD) (BIF) (James Williams) Miss V Williams 11 12 0 N Williamson
/5P1-	CREDO IS KING (\$23) (G L Porter) P R Webber 8 11 8
51/401	BRAVE HIGHLANDER (20) (D) (SN J Embricos) J Gifford 10 11 6P Hide
41-24	FLIPPANCE (32) (CD) (SF) (Simon Harrap Partnership) N Gaselee 8 11 5
5121-2	BROGEEN LADY (15) (D) (Starfight Recitty) D Gandolfo 8 11 0
200-01	BIG BEN OUN (30) (CD) (Mes N Carroll E L James 12 10 8
P1-341	OCEAN LEADER (19) (D) (Gibbings Mellen Partnership) Mrs D Haine TI 10 8. R Johnson
1-4333	LAY IT OFF (14) (J G O'Neil) J E O'Neil 9 to DL Aspell (3)
	FMINORET (29) (minoral Pertnership) R Alner 8 10 0
	3121P- /55P1- 51/4U1 41-24 5921-2 200-01 P1-341 1-4333

Africanum weight: 10st. True handicep weights: Lay t 0 df Set Stb., fininonit Set Stb.
BETTING: 100-30 Brogeen Lady, 7-2 Brave Highlander, 6-1 Filippance, 13-2 Big Sen Dun, 7-1 Oct Leader, 8-1 Credo le King, 9-1 Lay n Ort, 10-1 Bally Clover, 25-1 Tretworkt
1997: Court Metody 9 to 11 Mr J Tizzard (TO 8-1 (P. Nichols); 12 can
FORMI GUIDE

1997: Court Melody 9 10 m Mr J Tizzant (7) 6-1 (P Nathors) to tan
FORMI GUIDE

BRAVE HIGHLANDER shaped reasonably at Winceston in November on his first outing since beeting Master Boston as a novice at Ayr two and a half years earlier and, forlowing a slight hiccup at Exeter, he seemed back to his old self when just holding off
Danger Baby at Winceston on Boating Day. Considering what little racing he has had he
can only improve and the handicapper has given him every chance off just a pound
higher mark. Brogeen Lady will come on for her recent second to Stammor at Warwick, and not just because it was her first outing elince whriting easily over this trip at Uttowater in May – the Warrick receives five and a helf thriongs shorter. She tooks a by
danger. Filippence showed progressive form last season and licked off this tarm by being short-headed by Over The Deef over this trip at Warrwick in November. The ground
was too testing for him at Lingfield last month and he can be expected to go well here.
There are several who like to force the pace, Lay it Off included. She couldn't be ruled
out at the weights, but even allowing for the fact that Ocean Leader came off a strong
pace to win at Hurtingdon, he has more on his plate today. Rig Ben Dun also has more
to do than when beating Secret Bid over the course and distance last month, but Balby Clower and Credo le Kling gd well fresh and should give a good account of themselves first time out.

3.00 H.B.L.B. GOODWINS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F)

_		1 22,400 acces 210 II 1 10yus Ferially talue 12,020
1	35/44	HAWTHORRE GLEN (386) (CD) (8F) (Mrs D C Foster) J Long 11 11 12
2	PP2114	AMSI SOIT IL (FR) (13) (CD) (SF) (AMen Partnership) G McCourt 7 11 12
		Guy Lemis (5) B
3	34-553	WADADA (29) (Mrs Ruth Burthell) D Burthell 7 11 8
4	22-OFF	ABSOLUTE LIMIT (20) (Mrs JS Whotton) J Gifford 6 17 8 P Hilds
5	364-36	SALLY'S TWBIS (19) (SF) (Alichael And Gerry Worcester) N Chance 5 to 6
8	520-13	ALPINE JOKER (31) (The Cobra Partnership) P Hobbs 5 11 4R Districted by
7	245-73	AUGUST TWELFTH (29) (CO) (D C O'Bren) D O'Brien 10 to 13
8	-00141	SECRET GIFT (35) (D) (Regal Racing) Mrs J Pitmen 5 to 11 D Leasily B
9	004-P	YARSLEY JESTER (25) (Mrs Caroline Martin) D Grissel 6 to 8
10	56P10-	KRATON GARDEN (434) (C M Wilson) T Casey 5 10 7

#5222 CARROLLS ROCK (19) (Cleat La Vie Record Performin) C Marri 7 10.5 ____ J Mages (3) 5P4 ELLIMBNATE (P231) (J S Court) D OBrien 5 10.0 ____ R Thornton — 12 declared — - 12 declared Minismum weight: 10st. The handloop weight filteriness 9st 10th.
BETTINGS 9-2 Secret GIR, 5-1 August Twelth, 11-2 Alast Soft B, Suby's Twins, 13-2 Alpine Joker,
15-2 Currolls Rock, 10-1 Absolute Lingt, 11-1 Wadeds, 14-1 Bussinets, 16-1 others
1997: Added Dmensione 6 to 8 X Alzpuru (7) th-7 Weinkvorth) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
With Seemus Oursek again taking the rick. AUGUST TWELFTH is 4th better in for the
two and a quarter lengths he was beaten into third by Alinai Soft II over the course and
distance last month. The trip isn't really sufficient for either but today's easier ground is
what August Twelffth needs at this distance. That gaze turned into streethers of a sprint

what August Twelfth needs at this distance. That race turned into somerang or a sprint finish after a steady early pace and was the second successive talsely-run event fourth-placed Come On Penny had been involved in. Six days earlier Come On Penny had stayed on to be second to Secret Gift at Leicester, a race the winner was allowed to dominate and only stepped up the pace from the third lest, in the circumstances, a tire through Come On Penny would be misteading, but at least they should go a good cip here with Carrolla Rock to take the donkey work away from Secret Gift, who's won twice with Durack up and is improving.

Selection: AUGUST TWELFTH Ce. Thet re

3 30 CANTERBURY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,250

]	0.00	2 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,713
		HIGH LEARSE (20) (Edward Hervey) A H Hervey 8 11 13 J A McCentiny
		SAN PERRIANDO (44) (D) (Mas S N J Entaricos) J Gallord 12 11 13
		BANK AVENUE (15) (S.D. Herrstock) M. Pitman 7 11 3
4	00-326	WELL ARMED (16) (Topanga Partnership) J Bermett 7 ft 0
5	0.025	BARRESTERS BOY (53) (5F) (The Rumpole Partnersho) J Oid 8 TO TO C Liewellyn.
		RAGAMORF (26) (BF) (Urs P G Wilkins) P Hobbs 7 to 7
		GLEN MIRAGE (30) (D) (Li Coombe) M Coombe 13 10 6
		FIRST INSTANCE (44) (Pepin Recing) D Grissell 8 to 1
		BLACK STATEMENT (15) (Bit Neylor) J Giflord 8 10 0L Aspell (3)
1	0 SU-4P6	ONE MORE MAN (29) (A 1stey) Mas L Bower 7 to 0
1	105P-63	BENLE (29) (A A W Jackson) T Casey 7 10 0

Minument: 10st True handleap weights: Black Statement Set 13th One More Man Set 6th, Benji Sct 4th
BETTING: 7-2 High Learie, 9-2 Rageaunti, 5-1 Bent Avenue, 11-2 Berristons Boy, 15-2 Sen Ferneado, 9-1 Black Statement, 10-1 Well Armed, 14-1 Gen Minage, 16-1 First Instance, 25-1 others
1997: Oxford Quil 10 10 D Mores 25-1 (R Curis) 13 ran
FORMS GUIDE

High 1 earlie set proceedity 500 strong a prace to the constitute at Lieutinosino on Roman.

FORM GUIDE

High Learne set possibly too strong a pace in the conditions at Humingdon on Bosing Day. He's better than that - he spolit Coole Hills hat-trick bid there in November - but with the table he there to be shot at and BANK AVENUE may be able to make the most of the 10th he gets. Bank Avenue's latest run at Fontwell, where he came back minus his two back shoes, can be overlooked this previous outing at Towcester turned out to be in a ter hotter contest then realised at the time and the form to judge him on is his earlier third there behind Rakazona Beau on his chasing debut. Barristers Boy gave banceityoudrop a herd time in the mud over an extended two and a half males at Worcester in November on his first attempt over tences and dropped to the minimum trip when outclassed in a stronger race at Plumpton next time. He has to be a danger over this more suthable distance. San Fernando has an easier task than of late and is preferred to stablemate Black Statement, who night not even continuits, Fontwell form with Ragamutt, who did far better at Uttoweter next time.

Selection: BANK AVENUE

4.00 ASHFORD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added filles & mares 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £1,203

_		
1	5-6	ACHILL RAMELER (18) (Getjer Limbed) D Nicholeon, 5-11 4
2	0-0	ALBERTINA (200) (The East Gassion Partnershin) E.L. James 6 tt 4 M. Barry 77
3		ARDENTINAY (G P P Stewart) N Henderson 5 11 4 T Handle Pr
4	2	CHAZY CRUSADER (38) (A E Rost) D Gendolfo (1 1 4
5		DUCHESS OF ERMYN C Danniel D Marris 5 11 4 M Contabation Fr
6	0-0	FRESH HOSE MARY (44) (S M BOOM J S Moore 6 7) 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
7		MCT WALLES (MC CORE) MESU (SEREET 4 P. Thornton
8	0	BIT DAWN (44) IA L C Hoo) C Morlock 5 11 4 D. I Kentebook #E
9		SEVENTH WAVE (TM Chandle) if Rowe 6 tild
10		I AND URANGE (Caro Vecchic) R Curtis 6 11 4
11	32	INACETICANA (518) & G Thatsiel G Baltim & C A Mr. I Thatsiel
12		PENNY APPEAL (T K Pearce) J Mulers 4 10 6. David Turner (7)
		- 12 declared -

SETTING: 7-4 Crazy Cruspider, 7-2 Achiii Rambler, 9-2 Arden Waltara, 14-1 Seventh Wave, 16-1 My Daven, 25-1 citizens 1997: Tara Gales 10 11 X Azpuru (7) 14-1 (J Neville) 22 ran

Ask Tom will miss the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot on Saturday. Tom Tate, his trainer, believes the mine-year-old is not in the best shape to tackle the two-mile handicap. Ladbrokes' revised betting is: 4-1 Celibate, 5-1 Mulligan, Or Royal, 7-1 Arctic Kinsman, Lord Dorcet, 8-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 10-1 Jeffell, Leotard, 14-1 Time Won't Wait, 20-1 Big Matt, Native Mission, Storm Alert, 25-1 Green Green Desert.

WOLVERHAMPTON (AW)

HYPERION 1.10 Time To Fly 1.40 Polar Mist 2.10 Ultra Beet 2.40 Petoskin 3.10 Onefortheditch 3.40 Anonym 4.10 General Equation (nb)

GOUNG: Standard STALLS: I'm 61 - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 61 to itm 41.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4t.

Fibresand, left-hand, one course.

Course is north of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1m.
ADMSSSION: Club 215; Tattersals 25 (OAP members of Diamond Club £4); Viewing Restaurant £25.90 including entrance and meal. correct until 6 Jan 1998. CAR PARK: free.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hodlinsheed 90-597 (102%), M Johnston 53-243 (215%), J Berry 43-298 (144%), P Hastam 34-194 (175%), ELADING JOCKEYS: S Sanders 38-327 (115%), F Lynch 25-248 (101%), J Quánn 25-391 (64%), Dean McKerown 24-228 (105%), GAVOURITES: 369 wins from 150 races (318%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: The Fed (4.10).

1.10 COGNAC HANDICAP (CLASS E) (Div I) £4,000 added 5f

		1 14,000 autou o.
-		CHENCAST (7) (0) J.L. Eyre 5 10 0 R. Lappin 3 B
10	00006	CHENCAST (7) (D) J L EVING S DO
-		
12	3820-1	THE TO RY (7) (CD) B Muney 592 (Set) D Seesney (9) 1 B BEECHSOOD CIREST (141) (D) B Robbed 388 L Charactic B DEECHSOOD CIREST (141) (D) B Robbed 388 L Charactic St B
, ,	DIMO	
	3655	HENRY THE HAWK (128) (D) M Dods 783R Winston (5) 4 B
9	0002-1	HENRY THE NAME (120) P. Felgate 5.7 (3 (5m) Date Gibson 7 1887 DXPRESS (7) (CD) P. Gradeli 7.7 (1)
8	M00.3	
7	303-33	HITTORS EXECUTIVE (4) (BF) E Alexton 47 th
يم ا	BAAR 2	YOUNG BEN (8) (D) J Waterenight 67 10 A McCerthy (7) 2 B
	وحالتن	Indian real fel fel a series

rimum weight; 7st 10ib. True handicap weights: Hittoris Executive 7st 7tb, Young Ben 7st tib. BETTING: 9-4 Time To Fly, 5-2 Imp Express, 4-1 Hillions Executive, 15-2 Young Ben, 10-1 Little Bots, 12-1 Section Courst, Chemicast, 14-1 Hen-

1.40 MALIBU MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3YO 6f

0-6 SEA FIG (7) T D Barron 89. _____ T Sprake 1
-8 declared -BETTING: 4-5 Poler Mist, 160-30 Suro Venture, 7-1 Dryad, 8-1 Sabo's Joy, 10-1 Ferndon Princess, 14-1 Saz Fig. 25-1 others

2.10 CHINA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) 23,000 added 6f 006-50 GFLA HIGH (4) (C) M Meda 5 9 3 Dean McKeown 4 9 00000 GFLA MASS (4) (4) 61 35345 5 3 4 McGione 12 10 60653 MOON SONG (9) A 2575 3 3 4 McGione 12 11 ENDLESS HOURS J L 675 4 9 1 R Lappin 3

BETTING: 11-4 Miles Double. 7-2 Ultra Beet. 4-1 Palacegate Jack, 8-1 C-Harry, 9-1 Gi La High. 12-1 Moon Song, Snappy Times. 14-1 Hurgil Lady, 16-1 Leigh Crofter, 20-1 Encless Hours, 33-1 Maydon, 50-1 Others

2.40 JERICHO HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 6f 166yds 4603-0 PREMIER DANCE (11) (CD) D Hayon Jones 11 100.

ne Richards (7) 1 M Wigham 10 1540-3 PETOSIGN (5) (CD) J Peace 6 9 11
30500 GRAND CRU L/13) J Culman 7 9 9 R Hug
02252 LA MENORQUINA (M2) (C) D Marks 8 6 13 S San 30.60 RAJAH (37) (C) C Thomas 5 8 12 2325-1 AVANTI BLUE (13) x McAulife 4 8 9 44005 NORMAX LAD (129) M Meade 10 8 5. Jβamhill SB 65000 LORD NITROGEN (J19) B Liewesyn 8 5 0 (265-0 DRAMA KING (9) (C) S LINNESYI 6 7 10 10 200-01 UNDERSTUDY (5) R Holinshead 4 7 10 ... A McCarthy (7) 7 - 10 declared -

Moneton weight 7st 10th. True handicap weight Understudy 7st 9th BETTING: 5-2 Avante Blut. 4-1 La Manorquina, 6-1 Petoskin, 7-1 Lard Ni-trogen, 8-1 Grand Cnu. Premier Dance, 10-1 Normax Lad. 12-1 Drama King.

3.10 JAFFA HANDICAP (CLASS D) \$5,000 added 1m 1f 79yds 5355-2 RAMBO WALTZER (12) (C) D Nachols 6.9 % Alex Greaves 1 0002- ONEFORTHEDITCH (32) (CD) J Fansteine 5.96 T Sprake 3 1043U- THREE ARCH BRIDGE (19) (D) M Johnston 6.94

40'5-2 SUALTACH (5) (C) A Holinshead 5.9.3 4072 3004,144,07 BJ (6) 11 70886 4840 7 9 9 8 12 7 10 RNADO (67) E Aston 5 9 2 C Louter (3) 7 30655 IN GOOD FATTH (J185) JJ Ourn 6 8 3 J Quinn 5 20 COLINS CHOICE (18) (CD) J Spearing 4 8 0 P Bradley (7) 8 BETTING: 2-1 Onetortheolitch, 3-1 Sueltach, 7-2 Rambo Weltzer, 5-1 Col-ins Choice. 10-1 Suez Ternado, Three Arch Bridge, 25-1 in Good Faith

3.40 BASIL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 62,500 added 1m 100yds 0000-1 ANONYM (7) (CD) JL Eyre 6 9 5 O Pages 5 E 0656-1 ETHBAAT (USA) (7) (CD) R Judges 7 9 5 A Clark 3

= 8 declared = BETTING: Evens Anonym, 100-30 Ethbest, 7-1 Loch Style, 8-1 Asbgore, 9-1 Don't Worry Mike, 10-1 Failed To Hrt, 20-1 others

8 8000 FLOOD'S HOT STUFF (35) (D) N Littroden 4 8 9

4.10 COGNAC HANDICAP (CLASS E) (Div II)

6032-4 RAMSEY HOPE (4) (CD) C Fairture 5.9 (8 . L Chemock 1) 2 00024 ALJAZ (7) (CD) Gay Keleway 8 8 10...... Dame O'Nett 2 3 0064.2 FEATHERSTONE LANE (4) (CD) Mes L Schall 785.Deen McKeown 4 04000 BOFFY (222) (CD) B Baugh 5 8 1 ... T Williams 6 (3065 SOANED (37) D Crapman 5 7 10 ... A McCarthy (7) 8 B 2004 THE FED (23) (D) J L Eyrs 8 7 10 ... A Nicholis (7) 7 B

- B declared -Manatum weight 7st 10to True handicalp weights: Newtons Corner 7st 9th, Souten is 30 The fed is 10 BETTING 7-4 General Equation, 3-1 Alfaz, 9-2 Ramsey Hope, 6-1 Feath erstone Lane, 10-1 Newtons Corner, Scaked, 12-1 The Fed, 20-1 Bolly

RESULTS LINGFIELD

.00: 1, SEA DANZIG (R Studholme) 7-2: 2. Quiet Arch 9-4 it fav. 3. Jublies Sc er 9-4 k fav. 5 ran. 3 /k, 5. (J Bridger, Liphook). Tota: £3.80; £2.30, £1.70. DF; £2.70. CSF:

Total E380; E230 E170 DF; E270 DF; E270 DF; E1079, NF; Chairmens Choice.

1.30; 1.7 TiME CAN TELL (Dean McKeown) 11.4; 2. English Investor 11.4; 3. Night City 5.4 fav. 5 can. 5, 1%. (J. Payne, Nawmarket), Total: £310; £150, £150 DF; £450. CSF: £994. 2.00: 1. RECOGNITION (Amenda)

Sanders) 5-1; 2. Figerein 3-1; 3. Ledy Lephronig 6-5 fev. 8 ran. 6.3% (M Polylane, Newmarket) Tete: 2700; F130, F190; E100. DF: F130. CSF: F957; 2.30: 1. SOUND THE TRUMPET (J Branniii) 20-1; 2. Friendly Brave 7-2 oo fer; 3. Haif Tone 7-2 oo fev, 9 mm. 7-2 oo fev Plem Gaz. 5. 11/L. [R Spicer, Speiding); Tote: £7700; £2.30, £180, £150, DF: £188.20. CSF: \$8596. Tricast: \$268.26. Trio: \$113.30. 3.00: 1. DIAMOND DRILL (A Clariq 8-13 ter; 2. Blue Shadow 3-1; 3. Composi-offinelog 14-1.5 ran, 11/4, 11/h. (P Makin, Og-bourne Melsey). Tota: £150; £150, £110. DF: £180. CSF: £269.

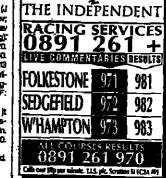
3.30: 1. VISTA ALEGRE (A Clark) 6-5 k fex; 2. Mery Commalis 6-5 k fex; 3. Cas-tio Ashby Jack 6-1 4 ran, 11/h, 21/L (P Makin, Ogbourne Maisey). Tote: £220. DF: £110. CSF: £267.

Jackpot: Not worr; \$15,758.48 carried forward. Placepot: \$18.80. Quadpot: \$2.90. Place 8: \$ 18.64. Place 5: \$7.17.

Card threat

Sedgefield clerk of the course John Cleverly has said today's meeting at Sedgefield is only "50-50 to go ahead" after persistent rain yesterday forced the course to call an inspection for 7.30 this morning.

Sedgefield card, page 26



MOTOR RACING

Honeymoon over as Stewart enters delivery business

Just one podium finish exceeded Jackie Stewart's expectations in his debut season as a Formula One team owner. Yesterday he rolled out the new Stewart-Ford knowing that a one-off result will not be enough this time.

A surreal combo of pipes and steel band had them grinning from Dunton, Essex, to Detroit, Michigan, and as a charm offensive might well have done

Formula One launches tend to be more showtime than substance, but behind this tartan spectacular was stark business reality and no one from the engine or car-maker was ducking the issue. The Stewart-Ford organisation has it to do. No excuses.

As Jackie Stewart, the leading light and inspiration behind the team, said: "The honeymoon is over. Now it's time to wash the dishes."

The Scot and his team unveiled their new, slimline car, the SF2, at Ford's Research and Engineering Centre, an indication of Ford's intensifying commitment and demands as Stewart-Ford embark on a second season.

A remarkable second place by Rubens Barrichello in the rain of Monaco gave Stewart six points last season, a result which exceeded their expectations for the first year and vin-

dicated the project. But the rest has hardened my resolve in of the 17 grands prix produced nothing in terms of points and now the requirement is more consistent competitiveness.

That message came from Ford, who have pinned their reputation on Stewart, as the company beamed yesterday's sure, but it's pressure we relish. proceedings back to headquarters in the United States, and it was reinforced by Stewart, who three times as a driver. If he needed added incentive, it was provided by the clumsy request

BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

of the sport's governing body, the FIA, that he proved his team's financial capability of completing the coming season.

Stewart knew he would confront envy as well as the usual obstacles on the re-entry to grand prix racing, but this shabby challenge and blatant attempt to embarrass him following the withdrawal of a sponsor was a blow delivered even lower than he had anticipated.

Stewart has since confirmed new backers who will boost his budget to £30m. The workforce has been increased from 113 to 136 in the last six months and will rise to 170 by the end of the year. They are due to move into a new factory in May or June. "What happened with FIA

that we know we've got to deliver," Stewart said. "We have got to give our people stability".

This is a serious effort, as you can see from Ford's involvement. There's total commitment all round. That increases the pres-

"Everybody is assuming the second year will be easier but from my experience the second won the world championship year is harder. You have none of the benefits of newness, people are no longer prepared to take

"I would expect us to run in the top 10 and we've got to get in the top six in races. With attrition, you then have the chance of maybe a podium finish, although we shouldn't expect regular podium finishes. If we can take our points tally to double figures this year we will then be considered serious players. Only in the fourth and fifth years can we hope to compete with the front runners."

Retaining Barrichello, the Brazilian who was beaten only by Michael Schumacher at Monaco, was a straightforward decision for Stewart. Giving : the Dane Jan Magnussen another chance less so.

"Rubens is in the top 10 in the world and he is so good in the wet I think he must have webbed feet," Stewart said. "But Jan was two races away from not having a drive. He has improved 300 per cent. The difference is night and day."

The test for Stewart starts with the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on 8 March.



Venus Williams returns serve against Martina Hingis in Sydney yesterday

Williams and Hewitt rise above their rankings

It was a day of surprises in the climbed from No 550 to No 200 world of tennis yesterday with after winning his first ATP Tour Venus Williams beating the title last week at the Australian world No 1, Martina Hingis, while no less sensational was onships, was 5-1 up in the final 16-year-old Lleyton Hewitt's set before Bjorkman revived, victory over the men's world No 4, Jonas Bjorkman. Tim Hen- fifth match point. man was another first-round victor in the Sydney International Tournament, beating Mark

Woodforde. Williams, No 21 in the world 1 ranking this year, managed to expose some chinks in her fellow "She was more vulnerable this smarter than the other girls."

The 17-year-old battled Hingis, who appeared unfit and Hingis admitted she was not fit final set, waiting for Williams to continue making the errors that had littered her earlier play.

But it's not disappointing because now I have something to learn from... especially for top 200 can beat me." Melbourne," she said, looking forward to next week's Australian Open.

Hingis acknowledged that her ranking could be captured by one of the up-and-coming new players on the circuit. "It's going to be a great year in that so many new players are coming up - and you can't forget the

Hewitt, dubbed the Aus-Photograph: AFP 6-3, 6-7, 6-4. The youngster, who his composure in the third set.

Men's Hardcourt Champibut victory went to Hewitt on his

As stunning as Hewitt's performance was last week at Adelaide, where he beat Andre Agassi in the semi-final and Jason Stoltenberg in the final, the but intent on claiming Hingis' No win over Bjorkman was perhaps even more impressive. Bjorkman, the highest-ranked playteenager's armour and then said: er Hewitt has beaten, was coming off a strong second half time. A lot of girls are stronger of 1997, when he won three tithan her and some are faster than tiles, reached the US Open her. But all the time she plays semi-finals and helped Sweden win the Davis Cup.

Hewitt, the youngest man to cramps in the hot conditions but win a title since Michael Chang Williams was too strong for in 1988, plays a baseline game similar to Bjorkman's. But on irritable in a 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 defeat. this day, Hewitt showed more flair and greater touch with and had played passively in the perfect lobs and crafty approach shots. Bjorkman gave Hewitt no praise, saying: "It's tough to rate a guy when I'm not. playing as well as I normally do. For the moment, anyone in the

But Hewitt said: "I feel I'm hitting the ball unbelievably at the moment. I kept telling myself the pressure's on him. He's No 4 in the world."

Henman survived a test in launching his defence of the title with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 firstround win over Woodforde. The sixth-seed captured the opening set only for his form to falter, allowing Woodforde tralian "Boy Wonder", survived back into the game in the seca comeback by Bjorkman to win ond. But Henman regained



Britain's (from left) Andrew Clayton, Paul Palmer, Gavin Meadows and James Salter yesterday Photograph: Reuters Seville, with Australia taking

WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Britain's relay quartet win first medal as Chinese founder

Britain's 4x200m freestyle quargold. The United States, the this could be the performance swimming seconds off the times governing body, still to seconds off her best. As Fina's earning their first medal at the

World Championships in Perth. They only missed out on the silver by 0.5sec - breaking the national record they set when striking gold in last summer's European Championships in the process - as the Netherlands reversed the placings from

ranking to take the bronze in a finish fifth. It was Britain's first championships." matic men's final yesterday, medal in the event at a World Championships for 23 years. Paul Palmer and James performed better than they had

"We needed that medal,"

Salter said. "The team had been a bit down because we knew that we hadn't swum as well as we could have so far. But

tet lived up to their third-placed Olympic champions, could only to fire us up for the rest of the they set at the national cham-announce their fate.

nasty was showing signs of cracking under the strain of the drug Salter, on the anchor leg, both controversy that has dogged the championships as their women in the 200m individual freestyle. swimmers - dubbed the "new in Rome in 1994, China have golden flowers" before they ar- won a solitary bronze so far as rived - wilted on the second day the controversy surrounding of competition.

petitors reached a final, most continues with Fina, the world

pionships in Shanghai last Oc-China's new swimming dy- tober when the latest suspicions Zhou, who admitted packing revealed that the vials seized

about drug abuse resurfaced. the disgraced Yuan Yuan and None of their leading com- her coach, Zhou Zhewen,

the human growth hormones from Yuan last week contained Predicted to repeat their discovered in Yuan's baggage at unadulterated human growth sweep of 12 out of 16 golds from Sydney airport - was hopeless- hormone. the last World Championships by off the pace in the 200 metres freestyle heats.

Shan, who had attacked after winning that bronze in the 100m freestyle yesterday,

doping panel failed to deliver its Shan Ying - coached by verdict again yesterday, it was pean M

Cola

"Maier

tralian Sports Minister, said that a sample testing of two of media coverage of her team the 13 vials of the drug that were confiscated matched the man-

Andrew Thomson, the Aus-

ufacturers' specifications. - Ian Gordon, Perth

SEDGEFIELD

HYPERION 12.50 Old Hush Wing 1.20 One Stop 1.50 Winter Belle 2.20 Danby's Gorse 2.50 Eirespray 3.20 Tindles Bible 3.50 Stylish Interval

INSPECTION 7.30AM
GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).

Left-hand, undutating course, Easy fences and long run-in on chase course of 500yds. Course is 1m SE of town near junction of A889 and A177. Bus service from Stockton station (9m) or Durham station (12m). AD-MISSION: Paddock E8 (OAPs £4); Course E2. CAR PARK: Pad-

MISSION: FRANCISC MISS MISS MISSION: 1283 (288%), J H Johnson 20-153 (23%), G M Moore 19-14 (187%), J Waste 5-155 (21%), G M Moore 19-14 (187%), J Waste 5-155 (21%), G LEADING JOCKEY'S: P Nives 52-173 (2014), L Wysr 22-107 (20,6%). A Dobbin 15-143 (10,5%). J Supple 14-74 (18,5%). • FAVOURTIES: 227-587 (8,27%). BLINKERD FIRST TIME Hya Print (120). Global Legend (220). Apacha Ralder (2.50). Ship The Builder (3.20).

12.50 MARSKE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (Div I) £2,900 added 2m 5f 110yds

BETTING: 4-5 Old Hush Wing, 5-1 Pertog The Weves, 11-2 Morley Prince, 12-1 Side By Side, 14-1 Come On Elitat, 15-1 Phoesents Delight, 25-1 Kasyton Kright, Gymcrak Gypsy, Lanacer Lans, 33-1 Others 1.20 J.WADE HAULAGE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

٦ ا		(CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 1f
] 1	120/00	SALINGER (30) J Paries T 11 T3 S Ryan
] 2	/ro-uu	SPAING GALL (19) ICO C POOROR 8 TO 7 N Hormeles ex
l 3	COMING I	NEW PER 141 (. 1997) 7 To C Uchambal
4	337 337	LEGISLATION A (ISSN P Regument A 10.3 R Continue
4 5	HHUUZ	UNESTOP (149 M Barner 5 to 0
6	-urum	CARUNESCHUI (HEHIFI) 737 M Pail 7 Th / N Hassailu fis.
	æ	ANVINER PICEA (19) A J Lockwood 5 to 0 F Hashand
8	000-U	MAPRIM CON N Chamberbain 7 th 0 R Hamilton Q
9	PUPP4	REGAL JEST (19) 8 Murray 8 10 0

— 9 declared —
Minimumwelph; 10st Tue handap weight: One Stop Sir 12b, Canonbie
Sir 11b, Another Pices Sir 7b, 1/ye Pim Sir 8b, Flegal Jest Sir 1b,
BETTING: 6-4 One Step, 9-2 Klanchen, 6-1 Salinger, 7-1 Anothe
Drumdonna, 10-1 Spring Call, 12-1 Regal Jest, 16-1 Canonbiebo
25-1 Hya Prica

1.50 RAMSIDE EVENT CATERING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m 3f

Minimum weight: 10st. True handiçap weights: Polo Pony 9st 12lb, Milhest-Ree Bst 72th: 1917 1918: 2-1 Straint, 5-1 Winter Belle, 6-1 Workingtorpeanuts, 6-1 Galam, 10-1 Perunian Gale, 12-1 Dandy Des Plants, 16-1 Milwautese, Farmey Geler, Gala Water, 20-1 Howeverly Catizen, Magic Bloom, Polo Porry, Delay Mar-chall, 25-1 Miss Coletta, 33-1 others 2.20 EQUINAGE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 5f

0-5351 DAMBY'S GORSE (18) (D) J M Jefferson 6 11 10 53-012 DESERT BRAVE (18) Mrs S Smith 8 1) 4

— 16 declared —

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Cherry Orchid 9st 8tb.

BETTING: 4-1Callermoy, 11-2 Dambys Gorse, 13-2 Dragons Bay, 8-1 Cor-bleu, Deert Barve, 10-1 Broschester Boy, Global Legend, 12-1 Netagrity, Menakid, Edatone, 14-1 Larkshill, Solper, 16-1 Court Jokes, 20-1 Nooran, 25-1 Cadesox Premiers, 50-1 Cherry Orchid

MAINSFORTH NOVICE CHASE (CLASS

2	<u> 2.50</u>	E) £4,000 added 2m 5f
,	64-221	PRIME EXAMPLE (13) M Tochunar 7 ft ft
2	0	ALL THE GAS (27) Mrs A Nauchton ? 11 4 Mr T J Berry (7)
3	6-UP6	APACHE RAIDER (15) F Murphy 6 11 4 E Callaghan B
ı	4-2222	ERESPRAY (19) Mrs S Smith 7 ft 4R Guest
5	P4-2P5	FLAT TOP (15) M W Easterby 7 tl 4R Gentity
3	6F-PP	FOREVER SHY (19) Mrs K Lamb 10 to 4 Miss S Lamb (7)
7	P413-4	HARFDECENT (55) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 7 tl 4
3	0000/	HOWYOUDOING (660) S Kettlewell 8 11 4B Storey
9	06/	LITTLE TUSKA (1061) N Meson 8 11 4L C/Hera
D	2P05/P	OLD ALE (55) (C) J Caris 8 11 4 G Lee B
Ħ	00604V	OUT BY NIGHT (635) G.M Moore 7 11 4
12	25P-5	PAPERISING (15) (CD) G Richards 6 11 4
13	/P04-6	ROSTINO (223) J Wade 9 tl 4A S Smith
ū	12:00P	SANTA JET (13) G M Moore 7 tl 4 J Callacher
6	02P0/4	SELLARS STALKER (19) (CD) Mrs A Swirtserk 10 11 4 J Sceppio
16	0-8	THE WASP (36) J Howard Johnson 6 11 4Mr C Bonner (3)
		the second secon

Per la Contract (3) - 16 declared - SETTING: 9-4 Prime Example, 4-1 Erreturary, 5-1 Paperising, 7-1 Plat Rop. 9-1 Haridecent, 10-1 Silbara Station, 12-1 The Wesp, 16-1 Oct By Hight, Sente Jet, 33-1 others

3.20 MARSKE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (Div II) £2,900 added 2m 5f 110yds

3.50 REDCAR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 5f 110yds

- 9 dadarad an weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Klaochskie Lad Set Blb., One More Dime Bz Mb.

More Dime Bz Mb.

SETTING: 11-4 Stylish Interval, 7-2 Halleleckelle, 9-2 Eachy Jokes, 5-1 Kinda Groovy, 6-1 Nobin Norman, 12-1 Zambareer, Sousee, 26-1 Kintochside Lad, 50-1 One More Disse RALLYING

Pathfinder and pioneer Clark dies aged 58

Roger Clark, the former British two RAC Rallies in 1972, rated rally champion, has died fol- him a "genuine world-beater." lowing a stroke at the age of 58. Clark, who transformed ral-

ly driving in Britain in the way Stirling Moss had done in motor racing, won the RAC Rally in British successes - most notably 1972 and 1976 and won the those of Colin McRae. British championship four times. Clark set a standard for

British drivers that was not face of British rallying. He was equalled until Colin McRae won a world title two years ago. He quer the all-dominating Scanretired in 1980 but continued to dinavians," Mason said. race occasionally, including two appearances in the 1995 Rally of British world-beater in any Wales. He had been troubled by ill health in recent years and died on Monday night in a hospital in his native Leicestershire.

Mason believes that Clark's success over the near-invincible

Scandinavians back in the 70s. laid the foundations for later "It must be remembered that Roger Clark did change the

the first British driver to con-"You only get a genuine sport maybe once a decade, and

he was one. "Until Colin McRae came

along, there really was no one had time for you. He was also Tony Mason, Clark's co-dri- to touch Roger, and Colin has a great source of inspiration to ver when he won the first of his now taken over his mantle."

friend and has remained so for the past 25 years. I am very sad to lose him and will miss him very much."

The RAC British Rally Championship manager, John Horton, is another who feels privileged to have worked with Clark, particularly when he was tyre engineer for him during his second RAC Rally triumph in 1976.

"He was always a profes-

sional on the stages and he was fantastic company when it came to the social side of the sport," Horton said. He would never forget all the people who helped him to his success and always the young drivers coming up."

finished 32nd overall, nearly 10

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football 7.30 unless stated
FA CUP THIRD ROUND
Durlington v Wolves (7.45)
FA CUP THIRD ROUND REPLAYS
Aston Villa v Portsmouth (7.45)
Port Valle v Arsenal (7.45)
Shaffield Wednesday v Watford (7.45)

raplay: Newport (Gwant) v Gloucester City. FTYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Molesey v ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE Cup Second round: Everwood v Chester-le-

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Schen, v Sudbury Town (7.45). SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Diviion: Brisington v Caine. Les Philips Cup sec-nd round: Crediton v Glastonbury; Wellington

O'Hara Cup second round: Eastbourne Town
v Ringmer.
WRINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Centerbury v Swarley Furnese (745):
Corinthan v Folkestone Invicta (745).
LEAGUE OF WALES Gilbert Cup quarternais first leg: Centerarion v Centese Trys Mon
(745): Cwmbran v Ebbw Vale.
PRIESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:
Freestburgh v Eight (8/1): Kelth v Rothes (8/1);
SMIFRIOFF (RISK) LEAGUE First Division:
Lame v Dungarron Swifts.
Fai HARP LAGER CUP First-round replays:
Starrock Rovers v Dogheds; Longlord v Wayside Celtic; Mervus Utd v Sigo Rovers.

PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Elim-ingham City v Manchester Utd (7:15) (at Hed-nester Rwin); Prestor v Notingham Forest (7:1). Frat Division: Burnley v Rochdale (7:5); Lin-coln City & Backgool (29). Third Division: Hall v Chester (7:0), League Cup Group Ore: Wes-ham v Outham Athletic (7:0), Group Two: Sourthope v Leeds Utd (7:0), Group Two: Sourthope v Leeds Utd (7:0), Group Two: Notic County v Desby County (7:3), Group Four-Wigan v Stockport (7:0). Group Sto: Scarbo-cugin v Rotherism (7:5). ough v Rotherism (73).

AVON IMBURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Swindon v Portamouth (73): Totterham v Brighton.

THE TIMES RA YOUTH CUP Third round: Bristol City v Swenses (73): loanidn v Bradioni City; Luton v Roterham (73): Transmer Rovers v Chetese (73): West Hern v Blackburn Rovers (73).

Rugby Union TETLEY'S BITTER CUP Foorth round: Black-heath v Serecese (7.45). heain v Sergers (745).
WELSH CHALLENGE THOPHY Pool A: EbbVale v Cordoba (755); Porthyridd v Tucurier
(20), Pool B: Cardiff v Rosario (755); Swensea
v Northarn Transwell (70).
TENNENTS SCOTTISH PRESIDENSHIP First
Division: Currie v Edinburgh Academicals
(72), Second Division: Musseburgh v Dunder
HSFP (70).

Basketball UNI-BALL TROPHY Quarter finals first leg London Towers v Manufester Glants (80); Grafi er London Leoperds v Thamas Valley Tigers (20)

Other sports BOWLS: Weish Massers (Lisnell). SNOCKER: World Champlonship quali (Norbreck Castle, Blackpool).

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST Third Division

FA Carling Premiership 1 Bernsley v Crystal Palace... 2 Blackburn v Aston Villa 5 Leicester v Liverpool ... 6 Newcastle v Bolton 2 Wimbledon v Derby... Playing Sunday: Everton v Chebee, Playing Monday: Southempton v Manchester United

Nationwide Football League First Division

 Birminghern v Huddersfield
 Manchester City v Sunders 14 Port Vale v Portsmouth 17 Swindon v Reading 18 West Bromwich v Crewe

Playing Friday: Stoke v Bradford City. Playing Sunday: Bury v Stockport. Second Division 19 Blackpool v Bournemo

20 Bristol Rovers v Burnley 21 Chesterfield v Plymouth 22 Fulham v Wycombe 23 Gallingham v York 24 Grimstov v Brentford 26 Northamoton v Carible 27 Oldham v Luton... 28 Southend v Walsall 29 Watford v Preston

مكان الاعل

31 Chester v Barnet ... 32 Exeter v Doncaster 39 Scarborough v Lincoin

Also playing (not on coupons): Strews-bury v Cambridge Utri; Swansea v Hull Play-ing Friday: Colchester v Torquay. Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 42 Hibernian v St Johnstone 43 Klimamock v Hearts

44 Rengers v Motherweil First Division 45 Airdrie v Ayr 46 Marton v Dundee 47 Hamilton v String Albion... 48 Reith v Felidrk 49 St Mirren v Partick ...

Also playing (not on coupons): Second Di-vision; Brachin v Cusen of the South; Inver-ness CT v Clyde, Livingston v Chydebenk, Starhousamur v Forler, Stranser v East File. Division Three: Allos v Abrosth, Berwick v Fast String Couponbach v Albon Durch. Division Three: Alica y Aprusir, se man. East Stirling, Cowdenbeath y Albion, Dumb-arton y Queen's Park, Montrose y Ross County.

Five eways: Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Bristol City, Celtic, St Johnstone. Ten homes: Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham, Middlesbrough, West Bromwich, Bristol Rovers, Eithern Berinbergunth, Abouteur, Briston

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27/SPORT

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Patrick Holzer, of Italy, struggles to stay in contention in the men's World Cup giant slalom in Adelboden yesterday. The event was won by Hermann Maier of Austria in 2min 20.08sec

Photograph: Claudio Scaccini/AP

nese founder

European MPs join West Indies wait on Walsh Coca-Cola debate

liament are stepping up the pressure to overturn a Uefa decision banning the winners of the Coca-Cola Cup from competing in the Uefa Cup.

FOOTBALL

A European Parliament vote today is expected to demand legal action against European football's governing body unless there is a change of heart.

A resolution tabled by two British MEPs says the Uefa move is "an abuse of a dominant position" contrary to EU rules. Two Labour Euro-MPs, Glyn Ford and Tony Cunningham, hope pressure from the Strasbourg assembly will help ensure the Football League can regain its Uefa Cup place.

Ford said: "If the European Parliament votes in favour of my resolution the Commission will find it very difficult to continue to sit on its hands on this

letter of European law."

Uefa wants national leagues

of 18 or fewer teams. "The deleague," Ford added. "But it is a century of Tests? clearly unfair to punish the Football League for something which is the responsibility of another organisation: the Football least, was still in limbo. A return Association. I think it is against of 10 for 102 in the match on a

Mönchengladbach's German , tal to the West Indies. international midfielder, has dismissed reports linking him

their loan arrangement with the Portuguese striker Paulo Alves, who has returned to

CRICKET

is acting against the spirit and : his captaincy services were no

cision to exclude Coca-Cola dies wicket-taking record, con-you've got to do something you Cup winners from the Uefa Cup tinue his international career can live with," he added. was taken to punish the Premier | under the leadership of Brian League for having a larger Lara, or bow out four short of

After Jamaica's President's Cup draw with Barbados at Sabina Park. Walsh, publicly at re-laid pitch provided further Stefan Effenberg, Borussia evidence that Walsh is still vi-

"It's a hard decision. I didn't think too long about it during with a £4m move to Tottenham. this game." said Walsh, keeping West Ham have terminated , the selectors guessing before they pick the side for the first

"Hopefully by Wednesday or Thursday. I'll be in a position

There has been a week of guess- to decide what I want to do." ing and counter-guessing since Walsh said. He will tell the me-scraped home by three wickets drove Shaun Gericke for four revise its fixtures this year, even Britain could fly out for a the West Indies selectors po- dia of his decision first before against the rank outsiders, to win the match. Members of the European Par- issue. They must rule that Uefa litely told Courtney Walsh that officially informing the West In- Namibia, in the second round Victory over Bangladesh todies Board. "It seems that most longer required. people in the West Indies want Will the big Jamaican, so me to play. Goals and records

close to breaking the West In- are nice achievements, but

Test in Kingston on 29 January.

Powell quells Namibian quest Clubs refuse to alter fixtures

of matches in the Under-19 World Cup in Randjesfontein, South Africa, yesterday.

Chasing a modest 162 to win, England were cruising on 122 for 2 with the captain. Owais While Walsh contemplated Shah, and the recalled Robert his future, Lara was going about Key looking comfortable against a weak attack. Howevhis business in a big way. He sent a warning to England with er, a combination of bad shots a double century in a North verand superb catching by the underdogs sent England reeling to

154 for 7 before the Essex off-Warne leads Aussie war party

Shane Warne will captain Aus-victory would put Australian on tralia for the first time in today's the verge of a meeting with World Series match against South Africa in the final. "We'll be attacking, for He takes over the limitedsure," he said, "Probably you

will see some weird things but overs role from the injured Steve Waugh, and promised to I will take it like any other game adopt aggressive factics since and go out and do my best."

to fit in with the Australians in triangular tournament in setting up an international November morrow for their third win in : programme. three games would take Eng-The newly unified game

RUGBY LEAGUE

land into the Super League Down Under is currently workstage as the Group Two winners, ing out its calendar for this year, where they would almost cerbut looks certain to finish its tainly play South Africa in Cape domestic fixtures a month Town in one of their three before Britain,

That has led to suggestions Put in to bat, Namibia were : that Super League here should scrap its proposed three-week midsummer gap, which has been earmarked for home with 3 for 19 from seven overs. international matches.

However, the League's acting chief executive, Neil Tun-(38) put together a stand of 56 nicliffe, said: "Clubs are selling for the fourth wicket, assisted | season tickets like hot cakes and to change fixtures now bowling from Giles Haywood as would be a breach of contract with our supporters. We are total. In reply, Shah was Eng- also committed to setting up a Five Nations competition, in which this is a first step."

That may mean Australia and New Zealand having a

The England Under-19 side spinner Jonathan Powell on- British rugby league will not four-week lay-off before Great

The London Broncos are to consider playing their Challenge Cup fourth-round tie elsewhere in the South-east, in order both to spread the word and to avoid antagonising residents near The Stoop, who have complained about extra matches since the Broncos

moved in with Harlequins. The club has also asked Sky not to schedule them for home matches on Friday nights because of local hostility.

The Salford scrum-half, Ian Watson, has moved to neighbours Swinton after seeing the club, for which he made 27 appearances last season, sign three other players who can play in the position during the winter.

He joins Ian Blease, another Salford player to make the same move this week. Dave Hadfield

Kowai (US) 1:0892; 2 A Peczek (Pol) 1:7:00, 3 M Dalle Velle (8) 1:7:160; 7 L Hindmarsh (GB) 1:1291; Heart Four: 1 P Heyne (SA) 1:0862; 3 A Kowec (Hung) 1:0892; 3 H Dermen (Aus) 7 Jaims King (GB) 1:2253; Finab: 1 KiCowai (US) 1:08-62; 2 Dermen 1:0865; 3 L Van Oosten (Cari) 1:0868; Synchronised awkmaring; Solo finab: 1 O Solakova (PuS) 992040ps; 2 V Dedeu (Pr) 98:54; 3 M Tachbane (Japani 97530.

Tennis

SPORTING DIGEST

SKIING

Fourth in a row for Maier

The win in Adelboden. Swit-Austrian, who is racing in a class wresting the package away auof his own - all four wins com- other rival network, NBC. ing by more than second.

Looking more and more likely to become the first Aus-1970 to claim the overall World Cup title, Maier left his teammates and Swiss rivals way be- TENNIS hind. The former bricklayer clocked a total time of two minutes 20.08 seconds, well ahead ond in 2:21.32.

cran, was only third, one hun- ment to act as a tourism amdredth of a second back.

"I surprised myself today," confidence when you win and ! government," he said. you just ski and take all the

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

As simple as AFC for CBS

its long-standing National Foot-Hermann Maier surprised only : ball League contract to its rival himself yesterday when the network Fox, is getting back in Austrian won a giant slalom for the football business. According his seventh World Cup success : to a CBS radio report, CBS Telcvision will pay \$4bn (£2.4bn) over the next eight years for the zerland, was the fourth con- : rights to broadcast the Amerisecutive triumph for the can Football Conference games.

NBC has been broadcasting professional football since 1965. when it was the network of the trian man since Karl Schranz in American Football League, and

CBS, which four years ago lost held the AFC package since the merger with the NFL in 1970. Negotiations for the Monday Night Football package currently held by ABC, as well as cable rights were ongoing. It was four years ago that Fox outbid

> leaving the league's original network partner out in the cold. Unless NBC can land Monday Night Football, the recovery CBS will leave NBC without live professional football on their screens for the first time in more than three decades.

NBC for the NFC package.

Borg 'received tax-free sum'

champion, Michael Von Grüni- claims that the former Wim- money was paid into Borg's acgen of Switzerland, who was sec- bledon champion Bjorn Borg counts in the tax haven of Jerreceived about £327,000 tax sey. Paul Accola, the Swiss vet- free from the Swedish governbassador in the late 1980s.

The claim was disputed by Maier said. "I can't believe I the former Prime Minister. Inskied so well because I have not gvar Carlsson. "If this was so, trained any giant stalom since it was something between the Saalbach. But you accumulate tourist board and Borg. not the

The documentary, broadcast on Swedish national tele-

of the injured giant statom world A television documentary vision on Monday, said the

The broadcast was the last of a three-part documentary examining Borg's cureer, including his troubled financial affairs. Last week, the first segment

of the documentary reported Borg had received about £135,000 to play on Sweden's Davis Cup teams, even though players were expected to participate without payment.

BOXING

Holyfield still wants unity

sus South match in Trinidad.

New Zealand in Sydney.

- David Field, Kingston

Evander Holyfield has blamed the US cable television network HBO for the collapse of his proposed heavyweight unification fight with Lennox Lewis.

Holyfield said HBO would guarantee only 650,000 payper-view buys for the proposed fight, guaranteeing him about \$15m (£9m) to £18m. He made \$20m when he faced the less formidable Michael Moorer.

"I was looking forward to [the fight]." Holyfield was reported as saying, "But it wasn't so much the fault of the promoters or the managers as it was the network. If a network says they're No 1 in boxing, they need to prove it. They need to share the risk, too.

Holyfield is the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion. Lewis holds the World Boxing Council title.

Holyfield said he still believes a unification fight with Lewis will occur, perhaps in 1999, but a meeting with Mike Tyson could take precedence should, as anticipated, the disgraced former world champion have his tight licence

Athletics

Max Jones, technical director for throws has been appointed their coath to the British men's and women's athletics teams. Jones was chief coach to the Eng-land Commonwealth Games teams in 1986 and 1990 and the British junior team between 1991 and 1995. The previous chef coach, Malcolm Amold, has taken up a new appointment at Bath Univer-

The British athleres Ashla Hansen, the reigning world indoor silver medalist in the triple jump, and Tony Jarrett, the former European indoor silver medal winner, will compete in the Bupa In-door Grand Prix in Birmingham next month to prepare for the European In-

The Budweser League announced yesterday that the All-Star Game will be held or the second consecutive season at sheffield Arena, on 22 March. Derby Storm yesterday announced that their American caretaker coach Jeff Jones would stay in charge for the rest of the season, following the club's

aiture to hire the England coach, Laszio Nemeth. NBA: New Jersey 108 Toronto 100; Minnesota 103 Golden State 87, Mayaulee 110 LA Cip-pers 95; Urah 106 Cleveland 99; Sacramento 96 Phoenic 90

Cricket

Cricket
MTN UNDER-19 WORLD CUP (South Africa)
Prolimbarry round: Group A (Soweto):
South Africa 283 for 8; Kerva 204 for 8. South
Africa won by 79 runs; (Leness). South
Africa won by 79 runs; (Leness). South
Africa won by 79 runs; (Leness). South
Africa won by 79 runs.
Group B (Pretoria) New Zeeland X78 for
8 Banglacesh 179 New Zeeland won by 99
runs. Group C (Botsburg): Palistan 348 for
7 Lermank 71 for 7 Palistan won by 277
runs: (Benoni): Ireland 59 for 9: Sn Lanka
52 for 5 Sri Lanka won by flow wickets.
Group D (Portchelstroom): Australia 299 for
8 West Indice 228 for 7 Australia won by 71
runs: (Klerkadorp): Zimbabwe 290 for 8;
Rapus New Cames 143 Zimbabwe won by
147 runs

Footbal!

The former Dutch international Frank Rijkaard has been named an assistant to the Dutch national coach, Guus Hiddink, the national football fed-erapon announced yesterday, Rijkaard, 35 retired following the 1994 World Cup AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Crystal Patace 0 Charlton 1; Alfwell 1 Nowich 3: Orderd UI of Lution 1; Alfwell 1 Nowich 3: Orderd UI of Lution 1; Alfwell 1 AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD Northern Section second round: Postponed: Burriey y Norts County; Wogan v Rotherham. BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division: Postponed: Harriston v Ayr.

struggling on 21 for 3 in the

ninth over after two early strikes

from Paul Franks, who finished

But their captain, Duane

Viljoen (33), and Bjorn Kotze

by some poor medium-pace

Namibia amassed a respectable

land's top scorer with 40 as they

MTN UNDER-19 WORLD CUP Group Two (Randjesfontein): Namible 191 for 9: England 162 for 7 (R Scholtz 5-29), England won by three wickets.

eventually struggled home.

Postponed: Hamilton v Ayr. LEAGUE OF WALES Glibert Cup quarter-fi-nals first leg: Postponed: Bangor City v Conwy.
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE Spaiding
Cup quarter-final replay: Postponed: Morecup quanter-mail replay: Postponed: More-cambe v Geteshead. FA UMERRO TROPHY First round: Post-poned: Altrachsm v Runcom. First-round re-plays: Postponed: Loek v Gredey: Leigh v Grandam.

playe: Postponed: Leek v Greeley: Leigh v Grantham.
RYMAN LEAGUE First Division: Postponed: Abrigdon Town v Bognor Regis.
INNEGNO LEAGUE United and Freshold Cup second round: Postponed: Traitord v Gretna. THE TIMES FA YOLITH CUP Traid round: Postponed: Liverpool v Queen's Perk Rangers playing Saturday).
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Rearranged fitsuriars: Two 20 Jann: Elester City v Barnet; Notis County v Hall City (from 3 Jan).
MONDAYS: LATE RESULTS: Bein's Scotlish League Prantier Division: St Johnstone 2 Hearts 3 Bennerits Scotlish Cup second round: Cydebant's 4 Montrose 0 (Cydebant's away to Hearts). Second-round replaye: Estricing City 0 East Sering 0 (althe onto hint; Echhough Cup won 4-9 on penalties and are away to Durisminel; Queen of the South at home to String Albom. Harp Leiger Cup Bristonum replays: Stratics's Athletic 3 Waerford O. Portima Liesgue Cup Group Four: Chesterfield 1 Stole 0. Group Fiver. Newcastle 0 fixt 1 Avrona Insurance Combination First Division: Cipelea 2 Southeropton 0. The Times FA Youth Cup third round: Welford 2 Fufram 0. Spanish League; Valence 0 Mallorca 0.

ice hockey

ice skating

EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAMPION-SHIPS (Millarr): Dancer Courspillorides (Chaick Step and Targo): 1 P Gracturk & E Pattor (Rss.) 0-4pt. 2 A Krilova & O Dvelarnilkov (Rus) 08, 3 M Anssare & G Poterat Fry 12. Joint 19th: C Centents & G Shortland (GB) 78 Real tennis BRITISH PROFESSIONAL DOUBLES CHAMP-IONSHIP (Queen's Club): Semi-finals: C Bray and M Gooding bt A Lyons and K Sheldon 6-2 6-36-3, J Mele and R Gurm bt A Philips & N Wood 6-2 8-1 6-3

Rugby Union Chris Gibbs, believed to be the oldest surviving England rugby internation-al, has died at the age of 95. He won seven caps on the wing between 1925 and 1927, including an appearance against the All Blacks in 1925 when New Zealand's Cyril Brownie became the first player to be sent off in a Test. He also played amateur soccer for Browniey. The France prop Franck Tournaire will

be available for the opening Five Na-tions match against England after es-caping with a three-match ban tolkwing his sending-off while playing for Toulouse against Montferrand nine

Skiing Skiing
WORLD CUP GIANT SLALOM (Adelboden
Swift: 1 H Maser (Auf) 2min 2008sec; (1:1178,
1:08.65); 3 P Accole (Swif) 22:132 (1:267,
1:08.65); 3 P Accole (Swif) 22:132 (1:267,
1:09.65); 3 P Accole (Swif) 22:128 (1:383,
1:07.65); 5 J Kám (Swif) 22:128 (1:383,
1:07.65); 5 J Kám (Swif) 22:128 (1:383,
1:08.69); 7 F Sebzgelor (Auf) 22:25 (1:367,
1:08.69); 7 F Sebzgelor (Auf) 22:25 (1:368,
1:08.69); 10 A Schillerer (Auf) 22:27 (1:368,
1:08.69); 10 A Schillerer (Auf) 23:27 (1:368,
1:36.69); 2 S Eberharter (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Schillerer); 10 A Schillerer (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Schillerer); 2 S Eberharter (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Schillerer); 10 A Schillerer (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Schillerer); 2 S Eberharter (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Schillerer); 10 A Schillerer (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Auf) 486; 3 Schillerer (Schillerer); 10 A Schi

shri Isah LAND NATIONAL SLALOM CHANG-INSSHIP, Isher: 1 A Baster (Melerore) 40/8se; 4452, 1:25-28, 2 J. Chronol (Grand Borrend) 453, 4548, 1:2702, 3 A Plaratil (Fashir), 4206, 4542, 1:2748, 4 J. Moutide-Brown (London) 417, 4539, 1:2783, 6 F Numeric (Mel), 4285, 4486, 1:2751, Women: 1 E Carriot-Anderson (Dun-bland), 3805-986, 3879-986, 1011 in 1884; 5 Ormand (Grand Borrend) 38,91, 3950, 1:847, 3 T Prile (Abendern) 4008, 3860, 1:365, 4 L Westmacott (Edinburgh) 4008, 3860, 1:365,73 T Archbold (Walsell) 4743, 4838, 1:3579

Swimming

SWITTHING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Perth, WA):
MER: 400m Individual residiey: 1 T Dotan (15)
MER: 400m Individual residiey: 1 T Dotan (15)
Mini 1456sec; 2 M Wouds (Neith) 415/53; 3 C
Mydan (Carl) 41545 4 x 200m relay: Heat Twe:
1 United States, 72046; 2 Britain 7-2362; 3 Russia 7:2732. Finet: 1 Australia (M Küm, G Hacktill, II Thorpe D Kowalsid), 7:1248; 2 Notherlande
(P Van Den Hooogenhand, M Van Der Zijden,
M Zujdweg, M Wouda), 7:1277; 3 Britain (P
Palmer, G Mesadows, A Clayfon, J Sattey
7:1733. Diving: three matre springboard finet: 1 D Seattin (Rus) PA(75; 2 Zhou Yin (Cn)
65492; 3 V Lleovilloy (Rus) 65190, Wetter
Potic: Sami-lassis: South Africa 6, Iran; I haly
6, Russis 6; Caracia 7, New Zestand 5; Spann
15, Blovatin 6; Hungery 17, Kazakhesan 3; Yupositivis 6, Croatia 6
WOMEN: 200m treestyle: Heat Foun 1 S gosavra o. crossa o: WOMEN: 200m Investryta: Heast Four: 1 S O'Nell (Aus) 2:00:78: 2 N Chomezzva (Rus) 2:0156: 3 K Patenny (GB) 2:201: 8 C Hud-cher (GB) 2:rziss Frinke 1 C Pol (C Peagl 15390: 2 M Moracova (Slovel) 1590: 3 J Graville (Aus) 5:000 1100m Investrations: Heat Timpe; 1 K

TODAY'S NUMBER

M Maleeva (Bul) bt C Rubin (US) 6-3 1-6-6-1; B Padus (Auf) bt I Sortinea (Rom) 6-2 1-6-6-3 ANZ TASMANIAN WOMEN'S INTERNA-TIONAL (Hobart, Aus): Sagond round; A-G Sold (Fr) bt M Maruska (Aut) 6-7-2-6-2-8-1 Grzybowska (Fo) bt N Sawarratau (Japan) 4-8-7-8-7-5. J Kruger (SA) bt V Rugno-Pascual (Sp) 5-4-5-3.

20,000

The number of games played by basketball's Harlem Globetrotters. The landmark, after 72 years, came in an indiana high school on Monday, when they beat their usual opponents, New York Nationals. Their record stands

at 19,668 wins, 332 defeats.

Besieged Bath officials yesterday suspended Kevin Yates, their England prop forward, pending further investigations into the biting incident that left Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, with a serious ear wound.

Chris Hewett reports on the latest developments in a saga that has shamed rugby.

Kevin Yates insists he is innocent of sinking his teeth into the left earlobe of Simon Fenn

Bitter Cup tie at the Recreation Ground and intends to prove it. His two front-row colleagues, Federico Mendez and Victor Ubogu, are equally insistent that their reputations have been needlessly dragged through the option. This sorry tale has a long, long way to run. Yates, a 26-year-old loose-

head prop with the brightest of futures in Clive Woodward's England international set-up, is in serious danger of seeing that future disappear into the ether. Bath's decision to suspend him pending further inquiries into a grotesque assault did not, in so many words, convict him of attacking Fenn. However, the accusatory finger is now pointing

from today's England session at into the England A squad for Bisham Abbey. He remains part the 1995 tour of Australia and of Woodward's squad - the na- Fiji before earning two full tional coach offered the player his full support last night - but will now concentrate on co-opmire and that legal action is an erating with Bath's investigation, led by Tony Swift, the chief executive. Andy Robinson, the head coach, and Tom Sheppard, the company director whose legal background makes his an in-

fluential voice in the matter. After spending his early years in Canada - aptly enough under the circumstances, he was born in Medicine Hat -Yates moved to England with his family and learned his rugby at school in Calne, a Wiltshire town close to Bath. A physically during last Saturday's Tetley's in one direction, and one only. powerful and generally good-

Sensibly, Yates withdrew humoured character, he broke looked considerably worse than caps in Argentina last summer. Last week, he made Woodward's squad ahead of several better known props.

> Swift declined to discuss the possible punishments awaiting Yates should guilt be proved he emphasised that the player was maintaining his innocence -but a two-year ban, enough to effectively cripple a vibrant young career, was being seen in many Rugby Football Union quarters as inevitable on conviction. The damage to Fenn's ear was far greater than that inflicted by Johan le Roux, the patrick in 1996. Indeed, it

the injury suffered by heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield at the hands - or, rather, teeth - of Mike Tyson.

Bath remained adamant last night that they knew of no conclusive evidence against Yates and Swift insisted that the video evidence he had viewed showed nothing to incriminate the player. The chief executive was far more forthcoming about London Scottish's decision to cite all three front-rowers for foul play, rather than a single figure.

'We are extremely annoyed that London Scottish did that been responsible," he said. "The damage done to the reputation club reserves the right to support

these players in any legal action they may wish to take." Mendez, the Argentinian

World Cup hooker, broke the wall of silence that had been quickly constructed by the Bath players in the aftermath of Saturday's match by protesting his innocence yesterday. It was understood that Ubogu, an experienced England tight-head whose lack of proximity to the Fenn incident made him the least likely of suspects, had consulted his own legal advisors.

"For them to have had their reputations tarnished in this fashion is totally unacceptable when only one player could have and we're angry, very angry, about it." Swift said. "If they want to take the issue further. Springbok prop. on Sean Fitz- of innocent players is great. The it is a matter for them. What I will say is that this rugby club

will assist and support them if they decide to take action, just as we would assist and support Kevin should the evidence prove inconclusive.

We've looked at one totally inconclusive video sent by London Scottish - we are still waiting for further evidence they promised us yesterday and we've interviewed our players. We've spoken to Kevin on three separate occasions and each time he stated his innocence. However, we've taken the view that it is right to suspend him at this stage.

"He's extremely upset, obviously. Over the years he has been a fabulous servant of this club and he has a good disciplinary record. When will our investigation be concluded? It de-



pends when we get the evidence people are promising us." Worcester suspended the flanker Chris Scott from last night's Tetley's Bitter Cup tie against Bristol following allegations that he broke the jaw of Nottingham's Nick Carroll in a league game on Saturday. Otley have suspended the Western Samoan flanker Lafaele Filipo for a month after an allege

Fenwick pays the price at Portsmouth

The upheavals at Portsmouth the Prime Minister and all 92 showed no signs of stopping yesterday as the manager. Terry Mellor to be removed as head Fenwick, followed Terry Ven- of the Government's Football ables out of the door. Keith Wal- Task Force, Mellor and the don, Fenwick's assistant, will Bradford chairman, Geoffrey take charge of the team for Richmond, have been involved tonight's FA Cup third-round in a row over suggestions made replay at Aston Villa.

Fenwick, the former England defender, was relieved of played a factor in the dismissal his duties 24 hours after Venables, his mentor and chairman, mara. And although the BBC agreed to leave the club, who yesterday released a statement are rooted to the foot of the First Division table.

The 38-year-old, appointed believe David Mellor is a fit and almost three years ago as a replacement for Jim Smith, guided Portsmouth to within three points of the play-offs last sea- Brazilian midfielder Emerson son and the FA Cup quarter-fi- has finally left the club. He nals. But this season has seen signed vesterday for Tenerife on a sharp decline, and the final straw was a 3-0 home defeat to Manchester City last Saturday. Graham, has vowed not to buy

Bradford yesterday wrote to any more players without an EU

League clubs calling for David with the South African Football

on Mellor's BBC radio talk cided not to sign another South show that race could have of the club's manager, Chris Kapassport," Graham said.

attempting to defuse the situation, Richmond said: "I do not proper person to be head of the Middlesbrough's unsettled stage the tie on Sunday week despite the reservations of Newcastle and their manager, Kenny Dalglish, who were concerned about the safety of The Leeds manager, George

> The French midfielder ruled out of Arsenal's FA Cup replay away to the First Division side Port Vale tonight after having stitches inserted in a wound above his right eye. Ian Wright and Martin Keown are doubtful and must undergo fitness tests.

Association. Lucas Radebe might not be available for Leeds after this weekend until the start of March because of his commitments to South Africa. "It's getting out of hand. It's got to the stage where I have de-

African or, for that matter, anyone else without an EC Police have urged fans without tickets to stay away from Stevenage's FA Cup fourth-round tie with Newcastle. The Conference side were given the go-ahead to

But Superintendent Frank Clarke, the divisional commander for Stevenage, said: "Sky TV will be showing live coverage of the match so there is no reason for anyone without a ticket to go to afternoon. They won't see a ball being kicked."



The boys from Brazil: Ronaldo (left), and Roberto Carlos, voted first and second in Fifa's World Player of the Year award for 1997, pose with the

Photograph: Patrick Kovarik/AFP Brazilian Sports Minister – and best of them all – Pele (centre) at the awards ceremony at Eurodisney

Friedel may leave Anfield Brad Friedel is ready to leave month and he has to go or risk

game. The United States goalkeeper met the club's manager, Roy Evans, yesterday to discuss

Liverpool since his £1.3m move club Columbus Crew as David James has kept a firm grip on the goalkeeper's jersey.

The United States want a new work permit. Friedel for the Gold Cup next

ever, if Friedel plays it will mean he has no chance of accumulating enough appearances for Liverpool this season to Emmanuel Petit has been Friedel has yet to appear for have his work permit renewed.

Football Task Force."

a four-year deal.

The only solution for Friedel from the Major League Soccer is to leave Liverpool soon, sign for either Rangers or Sunderland - both of whom have been linked with him - and apply for

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD ACROSS 7 Feeling sorry for game ond novel by Kipling (4) 23 Chow-chow? (3-7) 1 One goes on the bottle in end of hunting (5) as salary reaches ceiling 8 French dialect name giv-

6 Disconcerted in ceremonial seat, say (6) 9 Archduke, we hear, in revolutionary riot (4)

10 Processed pear in fresh cheese (10) 11 Flying linnets met in muster (10)

12 Good string wax (4) 13 Mate commonly in a church setting? (5)

14 For example, London's main plot (5-4)

16 Farm butter glob Italy produces (5-4) 19 At right-angles to length 5 of aircraft, making Lin-

coln by morning (5)

Operatic spectacles set by Handel, you say? (10)

26 Previously-owned house-dog inside (4) 27 Group of five shut up these days (6) 28 Departures from sanctu-

aries (8) DOWN 2 Blimey! Thin turn-out in

Greek port (7) Too menial, sadly to be passionate (9) One in diplomacy is taken for granted (5) Noel's stage fun? (7,8)

Barman rarely beats bet-

en to everybody in court

15 Oslo cubes crumbled in stew at sea (3-6) 17 One rook smoke-damaged? How annoying!

18 Creator's final blessing 20 What may come out of meal-tin? (7) 22 Widow's contribution

said to have clout? (5) 24 Ant, for example, not caught in place within

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ter half (7)

FA advised to protect game's integrity and reputation

The Football Association yesterday welcomed a report which called upon the game to "put its own house in order" before regulation was imposed upon it.

Genn Moore, Football Correspondent, considers whether the FA have either the desire or the power to take heed.

Sir John Smith may have made his name as a Metropolitan Police deputy commissioner rather than as a professional footballer but it has not taken him long to grasp the essential nature of the game. Football is in the dreams business and his FA-commissioned report, "Football, its values, finances and reputation", is as aspirational as a 10-year-old's vision of playing for England.

While the report contains a number of sensible and overdue suggestions, it also has some which, though perhaps desirable, are either beyond the will or the desire of the FA to adopt.

Chief among these is the suggestion, prompted by people within the game, that "no person should own more than 10 per cent of the stock in any football club - thereby defeating the possibility of a single person treating a club as his, or her, personal fiefdom."

On the face of it, this is an admirable idea. Bournemouth, owned by a community trust, are the ideal but they are a rarity among the ples and private clubs. tual wrong-doing, from the mier League's bung inquiry.

Supporters of Brighton, Don- George Graham bungs, the caster and any other club whose followers have been at odds with their board or chairman would agree with the proposal. But where would Newcastle be without Sir John Hall and Blackburn without Jack Walker? These and call witnesses under oath. questions are largely academic as the idea is a non-starter, difficult to enforce legally.

Almost as unlikely is the recommendation that the FA reprocess. There are those within the organisation who have been arguing this point for years -Graham Kelly, the chief executive, admits the current structure "is not designed for speed" in this month's Match of the Day magazine. However, they have been unable to persuade the 90-odd backwoodsmen of the ponderous FA Council to vote themselves out of posts that guarantee them regular junkets and Sir John's advice is unlikely to make the difference.

Enough negativity. There are some practical and achievable recommendations. These go from the superficial, a code of conduct applying to "all aspects of the game under the FA's jurisdiction" to the hard-hitting a call for an FA "compliance and monitoring unit" to "oversee the game's integrity and reputation" by monitoring finances, dealing with complaints and investigating irregularities. This unit would include outsiders

vestigative skills. This is long overdue, all the

Tottenham illegal payments and Swindon betting incident have been exposed by the media. Such a unit would need teeth including the right to enter any club to scrutinise the books

To do this the recommendation that "agent's licences may only be granted to those who agree to be contractually bound by FA rules" might be extended forms its decision-making to anyone working within the industry - if legislation permits.

Other suggestions, rather than recommendations, are that directors should oversee the financial aspects of transfers (as is increasingly common) and that directors therefore should be vetted to ensure "they were a fit and proper person" to be involved in a football club.

Sir John said: "Recent inquiries by the Premier League [into the Graham case] and my own report into betting [after the Grobbelaar trial] have created unease about the effectiveness of the structures and rules which football has in place to deal with financial misconduct.

"Any company or business which hopes to remain successful has to tackle areas of concern about its integrity. Football must put its own house in order, if for no other reason than to obviate the prospect of public authorities stepping in to regulate football from the outside."

The FA welcomed the report with legal, accountancy and in- and will review ways of implementing it. They are still considering whether to press charges recent cases of alleged and ac- on individuals following the Pro-

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